

Thomas Doyle

Short Biographical Sketch

Thomas Doyle was ordained a Dominican priest in 1970 in Dubuque, Iowa. He did graduate studies in philosophy, and theology at the Aquinas Institute of Philosophy and Theology and political science and Soviet Studies at the University of Wisconsin. He pursued further graduate work in Canon Law at the Gregorian University, Rome, Catholic University of America, the University of Ottawa and St. Paul's University, Ottawa. He was awarded a Doctorate in Canon Law in 1978. In addition Father Doyle studied addictions therapy at the Naval School of Health Sciences and is a fully certified Alcohol, Drug and Addictions therapist. He holds MA degrees in philosophy, theology, administration, Canon Law and political science and has a doctorate in Canon Law.

After service as an associate pastor in River Forest, IL, he was appointed an advocate for the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Following doctoral studies he served as a judge on the same tribunal. From 1981 until 1986 he served as secretary-canonist at the Vatican embassy in Washington, D.C. He has also served as an adjunct lecturer in Canon Law at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and at Catholic University of America. In June 1986 he was commissioned a reserve officer in the U.S. Air Force and did his training at Lackland AFB, Texas and Maxwell AFB in Alabama. His active duty assignments have been in Indiana, Florida, the Azores, Oklahoma, Ramstein AB, Germany and North Carolina. While on active duty he served in several global conflicts including Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. He received a number of awards and commendations for his military service including the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal three times, the Army Commendation medal and the Meritorious Service Medal three times. He is a licensed commercial pilot and a Master Scuba Diver.

Since 1984, while assigned to the Vatican Embassy, he has become an expert in the canonical and pastoral dimensions of clergy sexual abuse. He has worked with victims of abuse and their families throughout the U.S. and in Europe. He has served as a consultant and expert witness on several hundred clergy abuse cases before the civil courts in nearly every State in the US as well as in Ireland, Israel and Canada. When appearing, he has been qualified as an expert in the following areas: a) Canon Law, Church governmental structures, penal processes, rights and obligations of clerics; b) The spiritual and pastoral dimensions of clergy sexual abuse; c) The historical background of clergy sexual abuse in the U.S.

He has been involved with support groups for clergy sexual abuse victims and as a legal consultant for cases in Belgium, England, Mexico, Italy, Australia, New Zealand and Spain. He has appeared before six State legislatures and has been a consultant and expert witness for several Grand Juries in the U.S. He has written several books and articles on a variety of subjects related to Church law and practice. Included among these are one book and eight articles on the clergy abuse crisis. He co-authored Sex, Priests and Secret Codes with Richard Sipe and Patrick Wall. He has been recognized for his work in the area of clergy sexual abuse by Voice of the Faithful which awarded him their first "Priest of Integrity Award" at the first Voice of the Faithful Conference in July 2002. He also received the "Cavallo Award for Moral Integrity" in 1992 and the "Isaac Hecker Award" from the Paulist Fathers in January, 2003. He received the "Community Hero Award" from the Association of Trial Lawyers of America in July, 2005 and the "Red Badge of Courage Award" from SNAP in July, 2007. In June of 2003 he was issued an official commendation from the Dominican Fathers for his "prophetic work in drawing attention to clergy sexual abuse and for advocating the rights of victims and abusers.