

**The following is the victim impact statement John Doe provided to reporters on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, following the sentencing of Patrick Casey before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Wanda Evans:**

I mostly wanted to say that what always hurt the most was that I was suicidal and he did nothing to help me. I had always had that fear, that if I killed myself no one would care. And I thought in the Church it would be different. I'm not blaming all my problems on him. I was messed up before I ever met him. But he could have helped. And he chose not to. He contributed to it instead. For the next several years I drank heavily and constantly to cope with the pain and rage I felt. I just want him to know that a lot of things could have been different if he hadn't done what he did. I was drowning, I needed help, I needed a shepherd. He could have called the police when I mentioned my suicide attempt, he could have taken me to the hospital himself. That's what I needed. He didn't suggest another priest to talk to. He didn't even say oh there's a hotline if you're feeling suicidal. I hope someday he really understands the gravity of what he did, even if he doesn't care. The archdiocese said a confessor should be a father, a teacher and a doctor. I sincerely believed in my heart I had found a family to belong to and that I would receive help. Instead he preyed upon me. He utterly failed in his role as a priest. I received a lot of closure from hearing him say yes I did. I hope justice is served through the Church, and I hope he never serves as a priest again. I pray for that. And believe it or not I do pray for him. I hope he doesn't lose his faith. If anyone deserves to lose his faith from all this it's me. But I haven't. That's all.