

Dear Mr. Van Der Putten,

My name is Stephen Kokx and I'm an investigative journalist with LifeSiteNews.com. We are a pro-life, pro-family news organization with more than 40 staff located across multiple continents.

I am reaching out to you because I have learned of abuse allegations relating to your time spent at the Los Gatos retreat house in California with the SSPX.

I am trying to do a fair and honest piece about what happened. My hope is you will respond to me with your side of the story. Can you provide me with answers to the following questions by Monday, February 22? You can email me at: [XXXXXXXX@lifesitenews.com](mailto:XXXXXXXX@lifesitenews.com).

- 1) What made you want to become a priest? Why did you enter the seminary with the SSPX?
- 2) What years were you a house father in St. Marys? Did you ever work for Fr. Ramon Angles? Did you know him well? Are you aware he has been accused of raping a boy who attended the Academy named Michael Gonzalez in the late 1980s? Do you know any details about that?
- 3) Can you explain the reasons for your dismissal from the SSPX? Did Father Peter Scott ask you to leave, or did you leave on your own because you wanted to be "regularized" with Rome?
- 4) Did you ever spend time in Ireland at a monastery after Los Gatos? Did you say public Masses in Ireland? Was your time away supposed to be in penance or reparation for something?
- 5) What did the SSPX leaders tell you was the reason for your removal from public ministry? Can you give any other details about how Fr. Scott, Bishop Fellay, or any other SSPX leader dealt with your case? Can you tell me about your time spent in Pennsylvania?
- 6) Julie Swehla and LouAnn Manwarren said you abused them and other teenage girls while stationed at the Los Gatos retreat center. Is that true? Do you know these women?
- 7) Can you explain when you began feeling a strong desire to act out your attractions to teenage girls/young women in the first place? Why did you act on those feelings? Did you ever tell your superiors when you were in seminary about your strong impulses? If so, what did they say?
- 8) How have you changed your life in the years since you left the priesthood? What would your response be to someone who believes you are still a threat to young women? Have you been to a psychologist, for instance, to deal with your seeming inability to control yourself around underage girls? Have you left the Catholic faith?
- 9) What would your message be today to those underage women you abused in Los Gatos and elsewhere? Would you say that you are sorry for what you did? Or that you regret your actions? Do you believe you broke the law and that what you did was immoral? What do you say to people who think you should be in jail?
- 10) Have you told your wife and children about your past? Do you have any other information you can provide me with regarding the SSPX and abuse within its ranks in general or about your own story?

Again, please send your responses ASAP to me via email at [XXXXXXXX@lifesitenews.com](mailto:XXXXXXXX@lifesitenews.com). I am on a tight deadline and need answers by Monday, February 22.

Thank you for your consideration,

Stephen Kokx