

Absolving an accomplice in Confession: 2015 – 2020

The allegations that Fr. Marko Rupnik absolved a woman with whom he had conducted sexual relations date back to **October 2018**, according to the Jesuit’s timeline, although the event itself is [believed](#) to have taken place in 2015.

The Jesuits established a “preliminary investigation” in **October 2018**, and by **May 2019** a file was sent to the Congregation (now Dicastery) for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) after the investigation deemed the allegations “credible.”

From **June 2019**, Fr. Johan Verschueren, the Delegate of the Jesuit Superior General for the International Houses in Rome, placed restrictions on Rupnik’s public ministry, and the next month the CDF asked the Jesuits to establish a “penal administrative process.”

[Speaking](#) to the *National Catholic Register*, Verschueren stated that the restrictions involved Rupnik having to “avoid private, in-depth spiritual contacts with persons” and being “forbidden to confess women, and to give spiritual direction to women specifically in the context of Centro Aletti. In 2020, these restrictions were widened geographically to include anywhere.”

It was only six months later, in **January 2020**, that the judges in the penal process “unanimously” declared “that there was indeed absolution of an accomplice,” according to the Jesuit’s timeline.

In **May 2020**, the CDF pronounced that Rupnik had indeed absolved an accomplice, meaning that he had incurred the *latae sententiae* excommunication, an excommunication which – according to the Jesuits – was lifted by a “CDF decree later that month.”

However, website *Messa in Latino*, which had jointly broken the news about Rupnik in the last few weeks, has stated that this excommunication was lifted by Pope Francis himself, who intervened within “a few hours” to overturn the excommunication.

Notwithstanding this, just weeks after the penal process judges “unanimously” declared Rupnik had absolved an accomplice, the priest was invited by Pope Francis to [deliver](#) a Lenten homily to the Papal household in **March 2020**.

Handling of abuse allegations: 2021 – 2022

The Jesuit’s timeline also presented brief details about the allegations and investigation into Rupnik’s alleged abuse of religious sisters in the 1990’s – investigations which will go no further as the CDF ruled that the events in question were too old, and thus bound by the statute of limitations. Rupnik was accused of “psychological abuse and sexual violence” against a number of nuns. ACI Prensa [reported](#) that a “source” informed the news outlet that Rupnik had abused at least nine nuns, and Left.it [wrote](#) that one of the nuns had attempted suicide following the alleged abuse.

However, an alleged victim of Rupnik’s, using the pseudonym “Anna,” estimated that of the 41 women in the Loyola Community in the early 1990s, Rupnik had engaged in sexual abuse with about 20 of them.

According to the Jesuit’s timeline, the CDF contacted the Society of Jesus in **June 2021** regarding allegations against Rupnik. The following month, an external investigation was established, [led](#) by Rupnik’s fellow Jesuit Daniele Libanori, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Rome. Fr. Verschueren imposed additional restrictions on Rupnik.

The *Register* added that these updated restrictions now included Rupnik’s interactions with men, with Verschueren saying that Rupnik was given “restrictions in the field of public activity to avoid causing scandal to the victims.”

In a six-month period similar to the previous investigation against Rupnik, by **January 2022** the investigation had found there was a “case to answer” and sent the findings to the CDF, along with the recommendation for a penal process.

However, in **October 2022**, the CDF dropped the case, referencing time limitations. According to *Messa in Latino*, this was also due to Pope Francis: “Despite this it seems that, due to the Holy Father’s intervention, the process did not take place precisely because it was ‘time-barred’ [bound by the statute of limitations.]”