

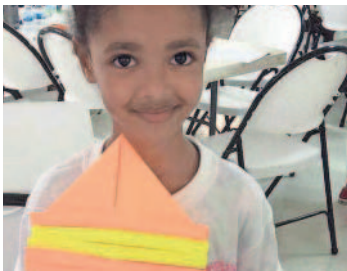
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**HABA ADAI,  
IT'S WEDNESDAY**



## EX-CUSTOMS OFFICER ON PROBATION

SEE STORY, PAGE 2



## I CAN TOO! CAMP FOR ALL KIDS

SEE STORY, PAGE 14



**Rev and Tax** has refunded error-free tax returns filed by Feb. 9.



**GUAM'S COMPLETE SOURCE**  
Vote and comment on today's poll.

**TODAY'S QUESTION:**  
Do you agree with the Vatican's decision to appoint an apostolic administrator to the Archdiocese of Agaña?

Results from yesterday's PDN poll are on **PAGE 2**.

# 'I WAS RAPED'



**RICK CRUZ/PDN**  
Walter Denton, 52, wipes tears from his eyes as he speaks outside the Cathedral Pastoral Center in Hagåtña on Tuesday. Denton, surrounded by friends, family and supporters, said he was sexually abused by then-Father Anthony Apuron in April 1977 when he served as an altar boy at the Agat church. "I was raped by Anthony Sablan Apuron, who ... was a priest at Agat and whom I trusted," Denton said.

## Third accuser comes forward against Apuron

**HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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A former altar boy in Agat said Tuesday he was raped by Archbishop Anthony Apuron in April 1977, when he was an altar boy at the Our Lady of

Mount Carmel Church, where Apuron was parish priest.

Walter G. Denton, 52, of Casa Grande, Ariz., said he has kept to himself this "whole experience of getting raped by Father Anthony Apuron" during a sleepover at the Agat

church rectory, and it weighed on him for years.

Denton's accusation is the third allegation of sexual abuse against the archbishop in recent weeks. All of the alleged victims were altar servers at the Agat church in the

1970s.

"I was raped by Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron, who at that time was a priest in Agat and whom I trusted. I worshipped the ground he

See **DENTON**, Page 4

## New archbishop in charge



Hon

**HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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Pope Francis named a new apostolic administrator for the Archdiocese of Agaña as the church investigates sexual abuse allegations against Archbishop Anthony Apuron.

While Apuron remains Arch-

bishop of Agaña, Archbishop Savio Tai Fai Hon has been given temporary authority to govern the archdiocese.

"The appointment of an apostolic administrator 'sede plena' means that while the administrator will discharge the archdiocese

See **APURON**, Page 4



### Video Online

Watch the video online at **www.GuamPDN.com**



# Accuser: 'I am not the only one'

Continued from Page 1

walked on," Denton said at the beginning of his statement to reporters outside the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica in Hagåtña on Tuesday afternoon.

Hours earlier, Apuron sent a video message from the Vatican in Rome, responding to Pope Francis' appointment of Archbishop Savio Tai Fai Hon as apostolic administrator for the Archdiocese of Agana, pending an investigation of the sexual abuse allegations. The Pope's action means Hon now runs Guam's Catholic church. Apuron, in the video, said he welcomed the appointment.

Apuron, 70, remains archbishop of the Archdiocese of Agana, which he has led since 1986.

Denton said Apuron robbed him of his childhood dream of becoming a priest.

"I know that I am not the only one that this has happened to. There are other Agat boys who have experienced the same thing that I have gone through. I only hope and pray that justice will be served to the man who did this to me and other young innocent boys," said Denton, who served in the U.S. Army for nearly 24 years and now works as a civilian.

## 'It hurts so much'

Denton, surrounded by his wife Shirley, oldest brother Jimmy, other family members, supporters, and attorney David Lujan, gave a detailed account of the night he said Apuron raped him, on April 16, 1977. He was 13.

While telling his story, he paused while trying to control his tears, and at times broke down.

"It hurts so much, just thinking about it. It's like it just happened yesterday," he said.

Denton said he woke up late that evening or early morning, feeling something on top of him and hurting him.



RICK CRUZ/PDN

Walter Denton, 52, stands at a podium surrounded by friends, family and supporters as he speaks during a press conference outside the Cathedral Pastoral Center in Hagåtña on Tuesday. Denton accused then-Father Anthony Apuron of raping him when he served as an altar boy at the Agat church in 1977. "It hurts so much, just thinking about it. It's like it just happened yesterday," Denton said.

## ON THE NET

» To read a written statement Walter Denton distributed to media detailing his accusations against Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron, go to [www.GuamPDN.com](http://www.GuamPDN.com).

"I shouted out to Father Anthony to stop. I kept shouting and I tried to move, but all I could feel was him on top of me. It seemed like forever that Father Anthony stayed on top of me."

Denton said Apuron told him, "It will be alright," that he would take care of him, and give him straight As in Theology.

Denton said he was attending Mount Carmel Catholic School at the time and taking weekend



## Video and Photos Online

For video and more photos, go to [www.GuamPDN.com](http://www.GuamPDN.com).

classes on the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

"I asked him why did he do that to me. I kept asking why. He

said if I said anything to anyone, no one will believe me," Denton said.

A few weeks ago, Roy Quintanilla, 52, of Hawaii, said Apuron molested him when he was an altar boy in Agat in the 1970s.

Quintanilla inspired Doris Y. Concepcion, a former Agat resident now living in Prescott, Ariz., to also come forward days later to say that, before her son died 11 years ago, he told her that he was molested by Apuron when he was an altar boy in Agat in the 1970s.

Apuron and the Archdiocese of Agana denied the allegations by Quintanilla and Concepcion. Apuron has not been charged with any crime.

The Archdiocese of Agana did not respond to a request for comment as of press time Tuesday.

## 'Horrific,' 'vile'

Denton's wife, Shirley, said, "When I first heard his story, I was shocked, angry, disgusted and very, very sad." She said it was a horrible experience for anyone to go through.

"Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron needs to be removed," she said. "He's wearing the cloth that represents the archbishop, and he does not deserve that. Please pray with us. Please support us. And please pray for those innocent young men. Pray for my husband. This can no longer happen."

Jimmy, Walter Denton's oldest brother, said Walter "is a humble and courageous guy."

"I believe him, I trust him, I love him, and I like to tell Walter that I will support him 110 percent," he said.

Quintanilla's niece, Sharleen Santos-Bamba, attended the gathering in support of Walter Denton.

"His story is horrific, and what happened to him, vile. We know there are others and we want others to come forward. How many victims must come forward before action is taken? How many? Walter and Roy have suffered way too much and to be dismissive of their pain is disgraceful," Santos-Bamba said.

"To reiterate, this is not an assault on the Church or the faith, a defense that the Archdiocese continues to exploit. This is about sexual abuse. We will continue to seek the removal of Archbishop Anthony Apuron."

Denton's account was contained in a letter addressed to Apuron that Denton and his family handed to an employee of the Archdiocese of Agana Tuesday.

Attorney Lujan said he's working with "at least three more" people in a similar situation as that of Denton and Quintanilla.

# Apuron: Responds via video from Rome

Continued from Page 1

san pastoral duties, Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron remains the Archbishop of Agana," the archdiocese said in a statement.

Apuron, 70, has led the archdiocese since 1986. He said he asked for the appointment of an apostolic administrator, pending the investigation.

On Tuesday, Walter Denton, 52, accused Apuron of sexually assaulting him when he was an altar boy in 1977 and Apuron was the parish priest in Agat.

It's the third allegation against Apuron in recent weeks.

Roy Quintanilla issued a public statement in May saying he was molested by Apuron in the 1970s. About a week later, Doris Y. Concepcion of Arizona accused Apuron of molesting her son, former Agat altar boy Joseph A. Quintana, who died in 2005.

Apuron and the Archdiocese of Agana have denied the allegations, and Apuron has not been charged with any crime.

The announcement of a temporary archbishop for Guam comes a few days after Pope Francis approved new procedures for removing bishops who are negligent in handling sexual abuse complaints.

In a video released Tuesday

from Rome, Apuron said, "By this appointment, the Holy Father has understood the importance of establishing the truth and will allow an independent investigation of these false allegations to proceed. I reaffirm my innocence and I'm a victim of these horrible calumnies and I welcome the assistance provided by the Holy Father in sending us Archbishop Hon. I urge you my dear people to pray for me, your Shepherd, and for our Church. I am convinced even though we're passing through these difficult moments, the Lord has not abandoned us and he will guide us to the truth."

Hon is the current secretary of the Congregation for

the Evangelization of Peoples, a congregation in the Catholic Church that directs and coordinates the work of spreading the gospel as well as missionary cooperation.

In January 2015, Hon visited Guam, along with Archbishop Martin Krebs and the Rev. Tadeusz Nowak, for what the Archdiocese of Agana called a "pastoral visit."

A support group for victims of clergy abuse on Tuesday responded to the Pope's decision to appoint temporary leadership in Guam.

"We are encouraged that the Vatican has taken this first step. Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron is now a twice-acused predator archbishop —

who has also been accused of intimidating victims, bullying Catholics, and manipulating church rules regarding abuse to protect himself. But this is only a first step," said Joelle Casteix, Western Regional Director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests.

"We hope that the new administrator reaches out to and works with victims and local Catholics who have demanded transparency and change. Without their bravery and tenacity, Apuron's alleged crimes would never have been exposed. We also encourage anyone who has seen or suspected abuse to report immediately to civil authorities."