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Hafa Adai, IT'S WEDNESDAY



DISNEY TEAM ADVOCATES FOR ANIMALS
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SHARKS DOMINATE IN RACES
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FestPac Countdown
4
Days until the 2016 Festival of Pacific Arts

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Vote and comment on today's poll.
TODAY'S QUESTION:
Rate your level of confidence in the Catholic church in Guam.
Results from yesterday's PDN poll are on **PAGE 2**.

MAN ACCUSES APURON



MARK SCOTT/PDN

Roy T. Quintanilla, center, says he was sexually abused by Archbishop Anthony Apuron when he was 12 years old, at a press conference in front of the Archdiocese of Agana Chancery Office in Hagåtña on Tuesday. Quintanilla asked for an apology from the archbishop, and encourages anyone with a similar story to step forward. "I will not be silent anymore," added Quintanilla.
» See video and more photos at www.GuamPDN.com

Former altar boy alleges molestation



Apuron

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Backed by more than a dozen family members and with the Archdiocese of Agana Chancery Office behind him, Roy Taitague Quintanilla, 52, of Hawaii,

"I will not be silent anymore."

– Roy T. Quintanilla

gave a detailed account on Tuesday morning, of being sexually abused by Guam's current archbishop about 40 years ago.

Quintanilla said he was a 12-year-old altar server for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, in Agat, when the alleged abuse took

place. Archbishop Anthony Apuron was the pastor of the parish at the time, he said. Apuron, who's been accused of molestation in the

See **QUINTANILLA, Page 4**

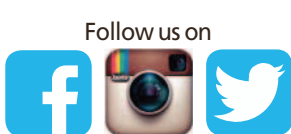
Advocates: Apuron must step down



Casteix

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The Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP) is calling for the resignation of Archbishop Anthony Apuron following a public accusation of sexu-



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al abuse made against him. The Illinois-based group commended Roy Taitague

Quintanilla for coming forward Tuesday and naming Apuron as the man who he said molested him as a 12-year-old altar boy serving at the local Catholic church in Agat.

Apuron hasn't been charged with any crime,

and no lawsuit has been filed.

Quintanilla said the abuse reportedly happened about 40 years ago when Apuron was a priest at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

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Public to weigh in on minimum wage debate

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On Thursday evening, island residents will have an opportunity to weigh in on legislation that would increase Guam's minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2018.

The island's minimum wage is currently \$8.25.

Bill 312-33 proposes to incrementally hike up the hourly rate to \$9.20 beginning next year and then to raise it again to \$10.10 on Jan. 1, 2018. The minimum wage rate was recently increased from \$7.25 to \$8.25 through a similar measure Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz, D-Piti, had authored in 2014.

A public hearing on this new bill is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday in the Guam Legislature's public hearing room.

The initial measure in 2014 was meant to incrementally raise the minimum wage for three consecutive years, starting with the raise in 2015. However, threats of a veto from Ade-

MINIMUM WAGE IN GUAM

Below is a list of Guam's minimum wage over the past 20 years, according to the Guam Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division.

- » Oct. 1, 1997 - \$5.15 an hour
- » July 1, 2007 - \$5.75 an hour
- » July 24, 2007 - \$5.85 an hour
- » July 24, 2008 - \$6.55 an hour
- » July 24, 2009 - \$7.25 an hour
- » Jan. 1, 2015 - \$8.25 an hour

lup prompted Cruz to amend the measure so it only provided last year's \$1 raise.

In the past two decades, the minimum wage has increased six times, according to Roman Quinata, administrator of the local labor department's Wage and Hour Division.

On Oct. 1, 1997 — the start of fiscal 1998 — the island's minimum wage increased to \$5.15 an hour, matching the federal minimum wage. The next increase wouldn't occur for another decade when Cruz introduced legislation that raised the



Dannieal Papas, 18, of Barrigada, completes a transaction for gas with Gloria De Joya of Yigo at Foody's in Upper Tumon in 2014.

PDN FILE

minimum wage to \$5.75 beginning July 1, 2007.

Days later, on July 24, 2007, the minimum wage increased to \$5.85, again to match the federal minimum wage. Between

2007 and 2009, the minimum wage incrementally increased in conjunction with the federal levels, Quinata noted.

In July 2009, the wage rate was set at \$7.25 and would stay

there until Cruz's 2014 measure.

Cruz's 2014 bill coincided with legislation from several other states such as Connecticut, Hawaii and Minnesota where minimum wage increases were enacted, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Guam, along with 29 states and Washington, D.C., have minimum wages set above the federal government's minimum wage of \$7.25.

As of Jan. 1, this year, 14 states raised their minimum wage rate, according to the conference. Twelve of those states had already increased minimum wages from previous legislation enacted in 2014 or 2015.

So far, only two states in the nation that have passed legislation to raise its minimum wage rate to \$15 is California and New York. California's minimum wage rate will reach \$15 in 2022 while New York is set to have \$15 minimum wage by the end of 2018, according to the State Legislatures conference.

Quintanilla: Calling for Apuron to resign

Continued from Page 1

past, has never been charged with any crime. No lawsuit has been filed against him.

The archdiocese issued a statement on Tuesday evening, saying that, as per its sex-abuse policy, the "proper steps have been initiated" in light of the recent allegations.

Deacon Larry Claros, the archdiocese's sexual abuse response coordinator, has been informed and is coordinating a response, according to the statement.

Part of the church response involves convening the Archdiocese Review Board. The board, according to the local church's sex abuse policy, advises the archbishop on matters related to sexual misconduct.

Quintanilla read a letter to the media Tuesday that he said he intended to deliver to the archbishop. The letter described the alleged incident.

According to Quintanilla, the abuse happened on a night after he and fellow altar boys saw a movie. Apuron, he said, was driving Quintanilla and the other altar boys home.

Quintanilla said he thought he was going to be taken home, but Apuron, he recalled, asked him to sleep at Apuron's house so Quintanilla could help at church in the morning.

"You insisted I sleep in your bedroom, even though I told you I wanted to sleep in the living room," Quintanilla said. "I felt so uncomfortable being alone with you in your bedroom."

Quintanilla said the archbishop touched his private

areas through his pants.

"I was trying my best to push your hand away; it was painful," he said.

As Quintanilla spoke Tuesday, a couple of family members behind him cried quietly, shielding their faces.

He didn't sleep the night of the alleged incident, Quintanilla said. He recalled being frozen with fear, afraid to move because he thought Apuron would do more to him.

"I cried then, and I've never stopped crying," he said.

Quintanilla said he was silent about the incident for many years until he talked about it with another priest. He said he had to tell someone because he was confused.

Though Quintanilla was silent when asked why he decided to come forward now, his broth-

er, Anthony Quintanilla, said, "If not now, then when?"

Anthony Quintanilla said he attended Tuesday's press conference because he believes his brother and supports him 100 percent.

"His character is impeccable," he said.

A tearful Josephine Redmond, Quintanilla's sister, said her brother has shared responsibilities of being a caretaker for their disabled brother. Their family was raised Catholic, she said, and her brother is not one to disrupt his life to lie about a serious allegation.

"The whole family is here to support him," Redmond said.

Quintanilla said he worries there are others like him who have pushed the experience of abuse into the back of their minds.

Sharleen Santos-Bamba, Roy Quintanilla's niece, also spoke in support of her uncle's statements.

Quintanilla delivered a letter addressed to the archbishop to the Chancery Office Tuesday morning.

Quintanilla is calling for Apuron to resign.

In 2014, another man, John C. Toves of California, accused Apuron of molesting his cousin. Toves' cousin, however, did not come forward to confirm the allegations.

The Archdiocese of Agaña said it intends to file lawsuits against people who've been spreading lies about the church.

Pacific Daily News Content Coach Kyle Daly and reporter Maria Hernandez contributed to this report.

Casteix: Others claim abuse from priests

Continued from Page 1

in Agat.

SNAP statement

Joelle Casteix, SNAP's Western regional director, issued a statement about 20 minutes after Quintanilla's story went public.

Like Quintanilla, SNAP in their statement called for Apuron to step down "immediately."

"The time for Apuron's petty threats and continued secrecy is over," the statement said.

This is the first time a victim has come forward publicly accusing Apuron of sexual abuse, but according to Casteix, she has heard rumors of Apuron al-

legedly molesting others "for years."

Because the group was not able to speak to a victim, SNAP had been cautious when it comes to allegations against Apuron, Casteix said.

Casteix has been speaking with abuse victims in Guam since at least 2010. She visited Guam six years ago in her official capacity as SNAP regional director, according to Pacific Daily News files.

During her visit, the group set up meetings at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa and at the Hagåtña library for local victims to meet with others abused by priests and "help heal," news files state.

While she did not meet with a

person accusing Apuron of abuse then, Casteix said she did receive an anonymous phone call from someone who said he was a victim.

It takes tremendous courage for Quintanilla to speak out, Casteix said.

"Speaking out against a sitting archbishop is rare — and even dangerous," she said.

SNAP now is in contact with the people in contact with Quintanilla, Casteix said.

They did not want to rush Quintanilla, who "is most likely going through a whirlwind of emotions," but the group stands ready to help him and any other victim, Casteix said.

"By coming forward today, Roy has made Guam safer for

children, exposed a horrific crime and decades-long cover-up, and began the journey towards healing, for himself and the Catholic community at large," SNAP officials said in a statement.

Casteix said she's spoken to "numerous" other people in Guam who said other priests, not just Apuron, had abused them.

In October 2009, Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz said the archdiocese had not dealt with allegedly abusive priests, according to news files.

One priest, Raymond Cepeda, in 2009, had been removed from priesthood because of allegations of sexual abuse, news files state. When the Rev. John

Wadson, another priest accused of "credible" allegations of child abuse, was found to be assigned to the local archdiocese, Apuron removed him from active ministry, news files state.

In addition to calling for Apuron's resignation, SNAP also appealed to the archdiocese to reach out to any other possible victims, asking to expose other crimes that may have been covered up.

The group encouraged Catholics to discuss sexual abuse with their children, and for those who suspect abuse or those who may have seen abuse to come forward and report it to law enforcement and civil authorities.