

April 23, 2021 Bill S.99

Hello, and thank you for hearing my story. My name is Michael Ryan. I was in St. Joseph's Orphanage for seven years. I remember when my brother, my sister and I were turned over to their custody. I spent much of my time in there in a constant state of fear.

Punishment were very quick to be meted out, for any reason, particularly for anything regarded as being willful or difficult, such as not finishing all the food on your plate, not learning prayers in a timely fashion, any disrespect or even not sleeping exactly in the position as told.

I was struck repeatedly with a yardstick until it broke, I was made to hold a heavy book in each hand and raise my arms out to the side until I could no longer hold them and was then beaten for dropping the books. I witnessed many other types of tortures, and that is what they were in fact, tortures.

I am very happy the Catholic Diocese and those who operated the orphanage and are responsible for the criminal behavior that went on there will...with the passage of this bill now be held accountable.

I would like to thank all those whose dedication and perseverance have made the passing of this bill possible. Your hard work and determination an indelible impression on this generation and all future generations!

Thank you all for your time and support.