

**SILENT NO MORE, MARYLAND CLERGY ABUSE SURVIVOR CHRISTOPHER ‘KIT’ BATEMAN  
AGONIZED FOR DECADES BEFORE SPEAKING OUT TO HOLD ABUSERS ACCOUNTABLE**

*Mr. Bateman’s **Survivors Stories** episode starts today after release of scathing Church investigation*

Baltimore, MD (April 9, 2023) - Among classmates at Calvert Hall College High School, Christopher ‘Kit’ Bateman is probably best remembered as the outgoing kid brother of one of the school’s popular teachers, and also President of the School twice. Tragically, as he shares in the latest episode of **Survivors Stories**, his upbeat persona masked unimaginable emotional pain caused in the 1970s by a then unknown **serial sexual predator-priest** at the school who molested him during Confession in the school chapel’s confessional. He was 14 at the time.

Mr. Bateman, a Baltimore native, vividly recalls Fr. Laurence Brett, school chaplain, religion teacher and former Rhodes scholar, initially appearing admirable. Until one day, in the privacy of the confessional, sitting face-to-face, Brett suddenly asked, “*What do you think about sex with men?*” The teenager was “horrified”, reduced to tears, as the priest touched him. Despite protests, Brett physically persisted until Mr. Bateman threatened to scream. “*He then took his hand off and said, Get Out! And I did. And I never told a soul.* ”

Gripped by shame and guilt, he was unable for decades – until in his 60s when he told his investigators from the Maryland Office of Attorney General investigating pervasive childhood abuse by the Church – to tell, even his family, about the assault. He would later learn that not only was he among numerous other Brett victims at Calvert Hall, but also that the notorious priest had a history of abuse when he was hired. Brett, who died in 2010, is among the predator-priests profiled in the nearly 500-page Attorney General’s report.

Mr. Bateman, in addition to being a successful Maryland retail business entrepreneur, actor, musician, and film producer, now focuses on speaking out for equality - he remains “faithful to Jesus Christ” - as he fights for reform, Church accountability, and the full measure of justice for survivors.

His message to children: “*No one has the right to touch you, abuse you and make you feel uncomfortable. If that happens, do what my Mother told me....Scream, run AND TELL SOMEONE!!!*”

**Survivors Stories** is presented as a public service by sexual abuse attorneys from **Jenner Law, Grant & Eisenhofer**, and **Baird Mandalas Brockstedt Federico & Cardea**, in conjunction with SNAP (Survivors Network of those Abused By Priests). The multi-part series premiered just before legislative hearings on the proposed Child Victims Act of 2023, and prior to the release this week of the AG’s report on systemic child sexual abuse within and beyond the Baltimore archdiocese.

**Survivors Stories** is part of the wide ranging public information effort that includes an online grassroots petition endorsing passage advocating for survivors rights. David Lorenz, of the state’s chapter of SNAP, hosts the petition campaign, and has been among the most outspoken supporters of the legislation.

Attorneys Robert K. Jenner, of Jenner Law; M. Elizabeth Graham, Grant & Eisenhofer; and Philip Federico, Baird Mandalas Brockstedt Federico & Cardea, commended the courage of Mr.

Bateman along with all the participants in the survivor-impact series, many of whom also appeared at the legislative hearings.

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