

**Chapter 1 : Work for the Good of the Priesthood - Opus Bono Sacerdotii - Vanished priests, lingering pain**

*The Vanished Priestess (The Annie Szabo Mystery Series) - Kindle edition by Meredith Blevins. Download it once and read it on your Kindle device, PC, phones or tablets. Use features like bookmarks, note taking and highlighting while reading The Vanished Priestess (The Annie Szabo Mystery Series).*

The Unholy Mystery of the Murdered Priests At least three priests vanished or were killed by unknown assailantsâ€”Were the crimes connected? Crime By Steve Huff 7 months ago The man came in from the rain. He was heavyset, tan. He was dressed in western style, with a bolo tie and a distinctive belt buckle. December 4, was a wet, chilly day in Boise, Idaho. Perhaps it was warm, a relief from the damp outside. He appeared to be there for confession, and who knows? If so, he changed his mind at some point. He swallowed cyanide capsules. He died laying on his back, blood and drool in a thin stream under his head. Once investigators arrived they confronted a bewildering scene. The dead man had no ID. He wanted anything left over to go to the church. He signed the note Wm. Toomey was the name of a robe manufacturer based in Boston, Mass. So are the fates of at least three Catholic priests across the west and southwest who died or disappeared around the time of his suicide, including one later found on a list of pedophile priests. So is the question of whether they are all linked by a web of deadly secrets. On the outside he was a parish priest in Denver City, Texas, pop. As James Harry Reyos would find out, the priest had a different side, one he was surely desperate to keep from his congregation, from the church itself. Reyos, a Native American, was convicted of murdering Father Ryan in The next day he had an opportunity to pick up his car, which was held by a bail bondsman after Reyos was arrested for driving without a license. As Reyos was retrieving his vehicle, Ryan drove away, dropping off the hitchhiker down the road. About 9 hours later, Ryan was dead. The priest was found at an Odessa, Texas motel, having checked in on December 21 using false information, including a fake name and address. His suffered a gruesome death. The room was in shambles, blood everywhere, and Ryan was face down on the floor. He was nude, covered in blood and surface wounds, hands bound with a sock. Reyos was convicted of the murder and sentenced to prison, despite the fact that no forensic evidence linked him to the crime, and despite evidence he was over miles away at the time. True, he had confessed early on, but immediately recanted. His confession, he indicated later, was borne out of feeling guilt related to his sexuality. The night of August 7, Rivera received a call at the rectory of St. A man who said his name was Michael Carmello pleaded for a priest to come and give last rites. Father Rivera acted as most priests might and immediately headed out to the Santa Fe rest stop where Carmello was located. He was found three days later and three miles away. His car had been moved from the rest stop. Robbery was not a motive because there was nothing taken from the priest, other than his last rites kit. Apparently, the killer would like to relive the experience, every time he looks at it, he remembers killing a priest. His western-style clothes were odd, too. They were just about the only concrete evidence police had. They made some headway with his unique belt buckle. The buckle was tracked to a gift shop in Phoenix, Arizona. It seems tenuous to try and link the three men using this threadbare set of facts. Richardson also believed the man was a priest. He had good reasonâ€”there was no trace of the mystery man in any database, no fingerprints, no evidence of arrest for any crime. No documents past what he had on him. Father Ben Carrier Father Ben, as he was sometimes called, did much of his work on the west coast. Mentions of the priest can be found in various California newspapers from through the early 70s. But he was found dead in a Yuma, Arizona motel on November 10, Two white males were mentioned as suspects early in the investigation. They may have been hitchhikers, and one was described as carrying a cane with a skull on top. They were never found. The mystery men, seen by more than one witness, may well have killed the priest, who had a reputation for trying to help the homeless and down-and-out. He was found face down like Ryan, his hands bound. Father Ben died from asphyxiation. The Outlier Three dead priests in the same region within one year. One mysterious suicide in a Catholic church in Idaho. Little threads connecting them all, but very thin threads, based on the publicly known facts. The last time anyone saw Kerrigan he was at a bakery. He walked out the door and was gone. The following day blood-stained clothing was found on a state highway near Ronan. A bloody coat hanger lay nearby. More

tell-tale evidence was in the trunk of the car: While there was blood all over the car, it was clean in one key way: Though the last time anyone saw Kerrigan was at the bakery, local papers reported investigators assumed the priest had been kidnapped from the rectory. Conclusion In the years since the murders, the suicide, and the vanishing, a long-simmering scandal kept quiet by the Catholic church has exploded in the news: Long-term cover-ups of sexual crimes committed by priests. Rape, molestation, physical abuse. Jemez is far from Odessa, Yuma, or Phoenix. It was originally where the church sent alcoholic priests for counseling and recovery, but over time it began taking in priests with a host of issues—including pedophilia. Once the counselors at Servants of the Paraclete concluded their charges were ready to preach the Gospel again, those men were assigned parishes throughout the southwest. As the Missoulian reported in , John Kerrigan was one of those troublesome priests. In April , the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Helena posted a list of 80 priests and nuns accused of sexual abuse in western Montana. Among them was Kerrigan, whose postings never lasted very long, often a subtle indicator something was wrong. Kerrigan was never conclusively linked to the Servants of the Paraclete—as one of the priests there for counseling, that is. There is simply the nagging feeling these are connected, supported by coincidences, locations, profiles. It feels a little too much like a conspiracy theory—a killer, maybe more than one, stalking priests across the deserts in the west, motivated by vengeance. Father Ryan assaulted James Harry Reyos, and two teen boys later said he propositioned them. Father Kerrigan hoppedscotched all over Montana as the Church tried to sidestep his predations. But Reynaldo Rivera was never accused of anything, and as far as anyone knows, neither was Ben Carrier. Why the notion of connections might even be disregarded. Still, the man dying from his suicide pills on the floor of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Boise—he knew something.

**Chapter 2 : The Vanished Priestess | Pro Writers Toolbox**

*The Vanished Priestess, the Annie Sazbo series, book #2 by Meredith Blevins This is a series I would love to love. I almost do, but not quite. On the plus side, Meredith Blevins writes one heck of a great story. Her phrasing i.*

December 5, by Michelle Boorstein and William Wan, The Washington Post Ten years after the clergy sex abuse scandal first exploded in the United States, lawsuits have been settled, reports issued, policies overhauled. Nor do they keep official data on how many were defrocked, or stripped of their priestly status; how many were imprisoned or placed on sex-offender lists; how many are working; and how many are dead. The priests have largely vanished from public view. Their fates are often a mystery to their victims, their parishioners and even their attorneys. Independently compiling data about what happened to the men is nearly impossible. Reports by the U. Conference of Catholic Bishops show that at least 5, priests were accused from to Although the church deems most of the allegations credible, the vast majority have never been proved, and many of the priests have never been publicly identified. At least five additional men who belong to religious orders have been accused in the Washington Archdiocese. But a comprehensive list of names does not exist. Victims groups often disagree with church officials on who should be included and maintain their own lists. The Washington Post was able to identify 31 priests accused in the Washington area and locate nine who are alive. All declined to talk about their cases or their lives, but court documents and interviews with those around them offer glimpses. The outcomes vary so much that they defy sweeping generalizations about the way the allegations were handled by the church or the courts. Many of the cases never made it into criminal court because the alleged abuse occurred decades earlier and fell beyond local statutes of limitations or made evidence difficult to gather. Sometimes the accusers did not want to press charges. But at least 11 men were sentenced to prison, and at least five were sued in civil court. Seven are dead, including Monsignor William Reinecke, longtime chancellor of the Arlington Diocese, who shot himself. Some of the accused priests have been able to retire with church pensions and benefits; others were cut off. Yet many have never stopped seeing themselves as priests, even when the pope has forbidden them to wear their collars or to act as clergy. Edward Hartel is one of them. He has continued to celebrate a private Mass most days at his home in Chevy Chase, where he lives on a church pension, said Joseph W. Hartel was acquitted by a judge of groping an altar boy in the s. But Washington Archdiocese officials maintained that he had admitted to the misconduct in private - an assertion he denied - and refused to return him to the ministry. Petrella has been accused by at least 25 men of molesting them when they were boys, church officials said. Yet his name does not appear on any sex-offender registry: The Washington Archdiocese, which removed Petrella from the ministry in after two decades and seven parishes, defrocked him in The person who has tracked the former priest most closely in recent years is Fortwengler, who was an altar boy at St. Columba when Petrella molested him in Petrella, who did not respond to phone calls and letters, had gone unmonitored for long stretches before. Maher, a former software consultant, founded the group in , after a case unfolded in his parish against a priest who Maher believed was innocent. His release required him to be in a home-detention program in Pennsylvania under supervised probation for three years. Yet it came out in court documents years later that probation authorities there were never supervising him; Petrella was sending his own monthly reports to officials in Maryland. In , after Fortwengler and two more victims came forward with allegations, Petrella was arrested again and pleaded guilty to three counts of unnatural or perverted sex practices. This time, he served nine months and was released on the probation that ended three years ago. Fortwengler, a year-old contractor who lives in South Carolina, frequently took a breath and choked back tears as he described the way Petrella had destroyed his life and his faith. Years later, he developed post-traumatic stress disorder, which he thinks helped kill his marriage. Haunted by the idea of Petrella going unnoticed, Fortwengler located him in in the North Arlington, N. He was living there with his mother, neighbors said. He sometimes took walks carrying a Bible and wore a clerical collar when he appeared for a neighborhood condolence call, they said. Since then, neighbors have kept a close eye on Petrella, They noticed when he took the street number off his home and changed his license plate from a New Jersey tag to a Maryland tag, said Kasim Dubur, a contractor who lives four houses

away. In recent years, at least two archdioceses - Chicago and Detroit - have hired staff to monitor priests who have been removed from the ministry to prevent further abuses. But such measures remain rare. In Washington and Arlington, there is no active effort to do so, local church officials said. Only one priest in the area is being directly supervised by church authorities: James Finan, 78, who pleaded guilty to molesting a boy at a Kensington church decades ago and who has been living in church retirement homes since the mids. His group is devoting more attention to chronicling where accused priests have wound up. It monitors news media coverage for where they are and plans to add a section for "current location" in its database. The church has a systemic history of "betraying" its duty to protect children, said Finkelhor, who has been cited by the U. And priests have an authority "far greater than teachers and coaches," he said. I do think there would be some value in having a list of publicized people who may have been risky. But I can also see there are serious challenges to such a thing. Often clergy sexual abuse cases drag on for years, and the men at the center of them simply vanish. Three years have passed since the Rev. The case has remained under investigation, with no official word from the diocese on what happened. More than 40 people posted messages in the first month after Buckner was suspended. They told about his nurturing their faith, introducing them to their spouses, leading them on life-changing visits to the Holy Land. Before the blog was taken down this summer, many posts came as pleas for updates or sightings: According to the Arlington Diocese, Buckner, 58, no longer lives in the St. Like other priests with unresolved allegations, he is responsible for making "alternate living arrangements," said diocese spokeswoman Joelle Shea. Elise Forrester, a former parishioner who posted on the blog, said she has spotted Buckner once since his suspension - a brief encounter in the parking lot of St. Some, such as Russell Dillard, are removed immediately. Dillard, now 62, was a faith adviser to then-D. He was suspended within days of the allegations, removed from the ministry five months later and eventually defrocked. No criminal or civil charges were leveled against him. Kathryn Barrett-Gaines, 45, one of the sisters who accused Dillard, said she was "floored" to hear about his new position serving others. He goes to post-worship coffee hour a few Sundays a month at St. Martin of Tours in the District, parishioners there say. Five years ago, Cote, 59, was known as the "cool" youth pastor who drove a motorcycle and made teens - primarily boys - want to go to church. Did you masturbate in front of the victim and encourage him to? How many youths did you do that to? You showed pornography to a number of youths, did you not? Dozens of times Cote, wearing a clerical collar and wire-rimmed glasses, offered the same answer through pursed lips: Probation workers tried to get him housed and treated at the St. Luke Institute in Silver Spring, a psychiatric facility that specializes in clergy, but prosecutors said he was rejected because he refused to admit to the abuse. Brian Mulcahy, vicar provincial of the Dominican office in New York City, said the state of Maryland was responsible for overseeing Cote. The order helps Cote with living expenses, and he is still a priest, but he can never return to active ministry. He has periodic phone contact with a Dominican priest in New York, "but other than that, nothing," Mulcahy said. After Cote was sentenced last November, he wrote a letter to his Dominican brothers saying he was innocent. He agreed to the plea deal, he wrote, because his attorney advised him that a jury would probably believe his accuser. He ended the letter with a disparaging reference to his victim, calling Rains "this drug addict. Mulcahy said he distributed the letter because Cote "asked for the ability to address the brothers. Mulcahy said he hoped Cote would only temporarily be living alone at a motel. He refused to provide any answers about his life. He looked at the floor as he spoke. Then he shut the door. Staff researcher Madonna Lebling contributed to this report.

### Chapter 3 : - The Vanished Priestess by Meredith Blevins

*The Vanished Priestess [Meredith Blevins] on calendrierdelascience.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. The indomitable Annie Szabo has lost too many friends and loved ones, so the death of Margo Spanger hits hard.*

### Chapter 4 : Pro Writers Toolbox

*The Vanished Priestess by Meredith Blevins In this fine sequel to her highly praised debut, The Hummingbird Wizard,*

*Blevins blends a wild story, wonderful wit, and great characters."--Library Journal, which also named it ONE OF THE YEAR'S BEST FIVE MYSTERIES.*

### Chapter 5 : The Vanished Priestess by Meredith Blevins

*~ The Vanished Priestess, 2. The indomitable Annie Szabo has lost too many friends and loved ones, so the death of Margo Spanger hits hard. Margo, Annie's neighbor, was a cultural icon with money and fame.*

### Chapter 6 : The Vanished Priestess Quotes by Meredith Blevins

*The vanished priestess. [Meredith Blevins] -- When the benefactress of a women's shelter dies under suspicious circumstances, Annie Szabo investigates numerous suspects from the victim's past and deduces that her killer is a master of.*

### Chapter 7 : The vanished priestess : an Annie Szabo mystery - Evergreen Indiana

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### Chapter 9 : The Unholy Mystery of the Murdered Priests

*The vanished priestess: an Annie Szabo mystery. [Meredith Blevins] -- When the benefactress of a women's shelter dies under suspicious circumstances, Annie Szabo investigates numerous suspects from the victim's past and deduces that her killer is a master of disguises.*