

# The Rock River Time

*The Voice of the Community*

Locally owned

Online

[rrtimes@rworld.com](mailto:rrtimes@rworld.com)

128 N. Church Street, Rockford, Illinois 61101

Online

Locally

## To the Editor

Thanks to Thomas White

Editor's note: This letter is in response to Melissa Wangall's five-part series "Emotional Stigmata: Living as the victim of clergy sexual abuse," which ran July 20-26, July 27-Aug. 2, Aug. 3-9, Aug. 17-23 and Aug. 24-30, 2005, in Section B.

I would like to commend Thomas White [real name withheld upon request] for having the courage to come forward and share such a painful, harrowing experience. Like Thomas, I, too, have struggled with the horror of sexual abuse at the hands of a trusted person. In

many ways, my life has mirrored Thomas'; I have struggled with intimacy, trust, addiction, and self-destruction on a daily basis for nearly two decades. I would encourage your readers to seek the support and counsel of trusted friends, family, physicians, or survivor groups. Telling my story has not completely erased the horror, shame, or pain of the abuse, but it has given me a voice and allowed me to turn my anger and disgust toward the people who really deserve it, instead of turning it inward and destroying myself. To Thomas, I say "thank you," and send him and his family every bit of hope, truth, belief, love, and peace that I can scrape from the recesses of my battered heart. Blessings unto you and yours.

J.B. (name withheld upon request)

Rockford