



# Audrey Yagalla



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# Audrey Yagalla

## Backgrounder/Bio

**Backgrounder: "Out of the Shadows"**

***"This plunge into horrifying trauma dominates the early chapters of this book, but it is ultimately not the defining theme of my life. Far from it, I am glad to say."***

**Excerpt From: Audrey Yagalla. "Out of the Shadows." iBooks.**

*For a large part of her adolescent and adult life, Audrey Yagalla lived the horrendous and repeated trauma of sexual abuse from a Catholic Priest whom was trusted, revered and never questioned, compounded by victimization from multiple other sources: from the highest reaches of the religious establishment who would not respond to legal actions against the offending Priest, and from legal and other institutions who either looked the other way or revealed her intensely private truths to the world. The result was decades of being trapped in "...a crushing darkness that engulfed my being and tried to quash my very soul."*

*"Out of the Shadows" is Audrey's true, detailed, heart wrenching account of living as a target of sexual abuse; groomed, repeatedly seduced, and controlled by a beloved member of her tight-knit religious community, impregnated by this Priest and (against the strongest mandates of the Church itself) forced to abort the pregnancy to protect his heinous actions.*

*For years, nearly every aspect of Audrey's life was impacted by the aftermath of the monstrous actions of this Priest: trust, family, friendships, parenting, employment, relationships, her sexual identity, and of course her faith. At one-point Audrey, a single parent, found herself homeless and relying on relatives for shelter. Audrey vowed her life would change, that she would no longer live in fear of this Priest who had so changed the trajectory of her life, that she would not be a victim, but instead a survivor.*

*The story of Audrey's shift from victim to survivor and ultimately as a healer is as profound as the story of the abuse that led her there. She initially sought conventional healing modalities such as cognitive therapy and psychoanalytical evaluation but found they didn't truly address the core issue. Audrey was then powerfully drawn to spirit-driven avenues (for full list see ['Healing Modalities-Brief Descriptions and Suggested Providers'](#)) such as Reiki, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), and Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP). ThetaTherapy® was life changing for her and pivotal for altering old beliefs and feelings. For decades she worked these modalities, engaged with Shamans to soul connect, and saw a path through these practices: No longer a victim, Audrey emerged as a "healer, helper, guide, keeper of souls."*



# Audrey Yagalla

## Backgrounder/Bio...continued

Acknowledging the transformational change that spirit-driven therapies can create, while also quite clear that people must find what works for them and there is no one way to heal, Audrey sought to master and then offer these spirit-based therapies to others ready to emerge from the pain and darkness and embrace the light of love, harmony and peace (see '[Audrey Yagalla Healing Services](#)'). This is the one of the channeled messages Audrey received when she began writing "Out of the Shadows":

"Your story, dear heart, is one of resilience and deep faith, despite your having fallen deep into the darkness many times during your incarnation on planet Earth, and you have been provided steppingstones for any others who are ready to consider walking them."

Audrey is hopeful that those who read "Out of the Shadows", especially those who are victims of sexual abuse, remember that they can overcome what they have been through- even through the darkness there is light!

1. Look for healing modalities that work for the individual- there is no cookie cutter way to heal.
2. There is always hope! Be true to who you are. It's okay to walk away from what is hurting you. Don't let what others say about you, define you.
3. Always speak your truth, no matter what.

For family members: Stop the blame game! Seek a greater understanding of how abuse impacts every aspect of daily life.

And for victimizers: Know what your victims face throughout the rest of their life. Get help. Find out why you do this. There is a root cause and it has to stop with you. (See Audrey's '[Letter to Supporters of Skotek](#)', a manifesto for all who have been victimized).

**Audrey Yagalla is ready to tell her powerful story!  
Audrey is available for interviews, speaking engagements and presentations.  
To schedule please contact:**

**Francine Raften new72 Media Management  
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## Suggested Media Questions

1. *Despite your horrifying traumatic experience that went on for years, you proclaim that those years are “not the defining theme of my life.” Many victims of abuse would disagree. How were you able to set aside the victimization and re-define your life theme or themes?*
2. *Skotek set you up again and again with carefully crafted alibis. Do you think he had practiced these behaviors elsewhere before beginning his perverted actions with you- in other parishes, to other victims?*
3. *The ‘system’ failed you: Catholic Social Services had suspected Skotek but did nothing; Your English teacher, who wouldn’t acknowledge your writings about the abortion; the town jeweler who watched a priest buy gifts for young girls but did nothing. If you could speak to them all now, these many years later and upon your healing, what would you say to them?*
4. *You finally found your voice and with determination shared your story with the Bishop, but as we now see through abuse cases such as yours, the church ignored and explained away the abuse, only to send Skotek to another parish to begin again. So, you went to the District Attorney, and again, delay after delay with no concrete action. How do you explain such inaction regarding a clear case of church abuse?*
5. *Soon more evidence came forward and Skotek was removed and defrocked. What were your emotions when that happened? Relief? Grief? Fear of revenge from him? The possibility of more victims coming forward?*
6. *You affirm that victims of abuse find the aftermath impacts virtually every area of their life: trust, family, friendships, faith, parenting, etc. Share some examples of how you recognized certain behaviors were a lasting result of the abuse you suffered, i.e., in personal relationships?*
7. *The case of Jerry Sandusky (assistant football coach at Pennsylvania State who molested young boys over 15 years) was a HUGE trigger for you, eventually ending your third marriage and prompting a diagnosis with a condition where you completely lost your voice. Is this a metaphor for how trauma can cause one to lose control, lose the ability to speak their truth?*

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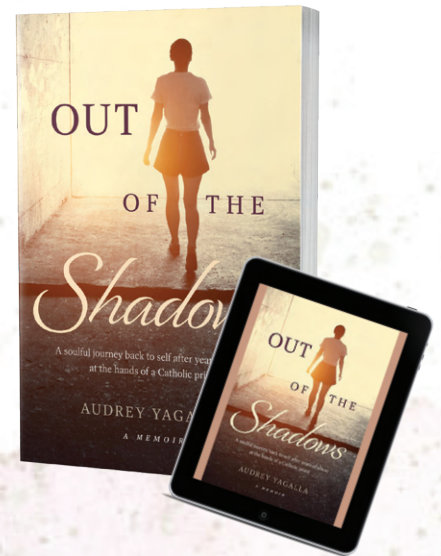
Audrey Yagalla

## Suggested Media Questions ...continued

8. You believe “there is no one way to heal, no single means of healing.” Methodologies you say have contributed significantly to your healing process include cognitive therapy, psychoanalytical evaluation, Reiki, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), and Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP). What is it about each of these methodologies that proved so helpful in your recovery?
9. You are very open about your sexual recovery, the reclaiming of yourself as a sexual being. What was the most profound part of that transformation?
10. What is it that you hope readers—abuse victims themselves, family members of victims, even victimizers-- glean from your story?
11. What changes would you like to see the Vatican take around the issue of sexual abuse and support of survivors?
12. The three words you say best describe you and “Out of the Shadows” are Trustworthy, Forgiving and Resilient. Speak to how each resonate for you.

## OUT OF THE SHADOWS

*A soulful journey back to self after years of abuse  
at the hands of a Catholic priest.*



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# Audrey Yagalla Services and Credentials

## “Healer, Helper, Guide, Keeper of Souls”



Audrey deeply believes her intimate experience with trauma, the real-world ramifications dealing with religious and legal institutions, and her exploration and mastery of many meta and alternative healing modalities gives her a unique perspective to help others on this journey.

Audrey offers the following services as a practitioner:

### Audrey Yagalla’s Credentials & Certifications

- \*Egyptian Reiki Master/Teacher (2020)
- \*Reiki of the Seven Rays (2020)
- \*Usui Reiki Master-Teacher (2000)
- \*Gifted a Reptilian Seed Removal Procedure guided by Arcturians (2020)
- \*Shamanic Reiki Master (2020)
- \*Bestowed with Arcturian Fire (2019)
- \*Light Language (Speak/Write)
- \*ThetaHealing® DNA I/II Practitioner
- \*Certified Akashic Record Reader
- \*Womb Keeper and Earth Keeper (2018)
- \*Psychic Photographer
- \*Neuro-Linguistic Program, Level 1 Certified
- \*Master’s Degree in Elementary Education
- \*Bachelor of Science Degree in Communication Disorders
- \*Dual state certification in Elementary Education and Speech/Language Disorders
- \*Current TAG course work and advanced Shamanic studies

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# Healing Modalities – Brief Descriptions and Suggested Providers



Audrey believes “there is no one way to heal, no single means of healing...” and the path to healing includes exploring different modalities to find which avenues work for the individual. Audrey attributes numerous methodologies that contributed significantly to her healing process.

The following is a list of modalities, practitioners and websites Audrey recommends:

## **Shamanism:**

Shamanism is one of the oldest spiritual practices/paths that has been practiced on every continent on Gaia. There is no dogma in shamanic practice but rather the awareness and understanding of the connectedness to all. Shamans are custodians of the ancient wisdom including the inter connectedness with nature and humanity.

\*Sandra Ingerman

<https://www.sandraingerman.com/>

She has a list of those who have studied with her.

\*Steve Nobel (Cosmic Shaman)

<https://thesoulmatrix.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SteveNobel>

\*Sharon Riegie Maynard (Radical Mystic Shawoman)

<https://www.sharonriegiemaynard.com/>

\*Angell Deer

<https://www.thesanctuaryheal.com/>

\*Jeremy RJ White

<https://www.thenortherngateway.org/home>

\*Monique Lang (resource for Ecuadorian medicine men and woman) and LSW (and author)

<http://moniquelanglcsw.com/>

\*Alberto Villoldo

<https://thefourwinds.com/>

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# Healing Modalities – Brief Descriptions and Suggested Providers...continued



## ThetaHealing®:

ThetaHealing® is a process of meditation that is believed to create physical, psychological, and spiritual healing using the Theta brain wave. This meditation training technique utilizes a spiritual philosophy for improvement and evolvment of mind, body and spirit.

\*Vianna Stibal

<https://www.thetahealing.com/>

\*Fred Salzman

[www.FredSalzman.com](http://www.FredSalzman.com)

\*Yolanda Perera

<https://www.origintheta.com/?fbclid=IwAR3o9neW4u7RHnkQ-Je6Mqa-I3ytAfyYMbb8smKQb7dVungFRCyyVmF1MNA>

## Akashic Records:

Here's how Edgar Cayce, the psychic medium who popularized the Records, describes Akashic Records: "The Akashic Records, or "The Book of Life," can be equated to the Universe's super-computer system. It is this system that acts as the central storehouse of all information for every individual who has ever lived upon the earth. More than just a reservoir of events, the Akashic Records contain every deed, word, feeling, thought, and intent that has ever occurred at any time in the history of the world. Much more than simply a memory storehouse, however, these Akashic Records are interactive in that they have a tremendous influence upon our every lives, our relationships, our feelings and belief systems, and the potential realities we draw toward us. The Akashic Records contain the entire history of every soul since the dawn of Creation. These records connect each one of us to one another."

\*Jami Hearn

[https://jamihearn.com/?fbclid=IwAR02s-pTuPUrkNUgy-DwB7ehOGgR5Ge4kGbQ\\_Cbi19CACeZdfXIO46v7wa14](https://jamihearn.com/?fbclid=IwAR02s-pTuPUrkNUgy-DwB7ehOGgR5Ge4kGbQ_Cbi19CACeZdfXIO46v7wa14)

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# Healing Modalities – Brief Descriptions and Suggested Providers...continued



## **Breathwork:**

Research to support the therapeutic benefits of holotropic breathwork for psychiatric conditions such as depression and anxiety is lacking. However, there is some evidence to suggest that it might be helpful for relaxation, stress relief, personal growth, or self-awareness.

Miller T, Nielsen L. Measure of significance of holotropic breathwork in the development of self-awareness.

J Altern Complement Med.

2015;21(12):796-803.

\*Angell Deer

<https://www.thesanctuaryheal.com/>

## **Astrology:**

Astrology is the study of the way cosmic objects, such as planets and stars, influence human lives. Astrology is the belief that the alignment of stars and planets affects every individual's mood, personality, and environment, depending on when he was born. Astrology is based on scientific calculations of constellations and planetary movements. ... The stars and planets don't necessarily influence things, but they are markers of time and allow us to understand what cycle we are in when a person is born.

\*Colbe Barrett

<https://www.slothsoul.com/>

## **Wellness/Healing/Spiritual Coaching:**

Spiritual coaching helps people along their path to spiritual growth. The objective can include finding a life purpose, overcoming obstacles, and putting pain and grief into perspective, and ultimately to gain confidence, clarity, and the power to make great decisions in one's life.

\*Liz Findlay

<https://lizfindlay.com/>

\*Holly Purdy

<https://www.lamplightertransformations.com>

## **Neurolinguistic Programming (NLP):**

The essence of NLP means brain (neuro) language (linguistic) communication (programming) — influencing the patterns of thought in the brain that lead to positive behaviors and improved psychological wellbeing. NLP is often described as a user manual for your conscious and unconscious mind.

<https://www.nlp.com/>

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# Healing Modalities – Brief Descriptions and Suggested Providers...continued



## **Soul Language:**

According to [Jennifer Urezzio](#) (master intuitive, author, teacher and speaker and Soul Language founder) “...by understanding your Soul’s mission and how you relate to the world around you, you will be able to increase your effectiveness in your business, in your purpose, and in your personal life. By tapping into your true self, you’ll gain a sense of clarity and alignment, you’ll become a more effective leader, and you’ll foster more profound relationships, which will help you feel more supported and connected.”

\*Jennifer Urezzio

<https://www.soullanguage.us/>

## **Reiki:**

“Reiki” (ray-key) is Japanese for ‘universal life energy and used to describe a system of natural healing. We live in a world of energy that nourishes and maintains all living things. When this energy flows uninterrupted there is balance and harmony within and around us, and we experience a sense of well-being. There are many variations of Reiki treatments, which help the body emotionally or spiritually. It is a tradition that is open to any belief system and can be used alongside other conventional or complementary treatment and often helps to provide emotional support during recovery. The practice is taught by Reiki masters / teachers who have trained in the tradition passed on in person from master to student.

<https://www.reikiassociation.net/usui-shiki-ryoho.php>

<https://www.reiki.org/usuitibetan-reiki-class-descriptions>

<https://www.thesanctuaryheal.com/>

## **Art Therapy:**

Art Therapy is an integrative mental health and human services profession that enriches the lives of individuals, families, and communities through active artmaking, creative process, applied psychological theory, and human experience within a psychotherapeutic relationship.

\*Aondrea Maynard

‘Reclaim the Sanctuary of Your Creative Brain for More Serenity, Healing, Vision & Joy

<https://www.artspaworld.com/>

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# Audrey Yagalla

## Testimonials

*Out of the Shadows is an autobiography written by Audrey Yagalla. It describes how her entire adult life was shaped by sexual abuse involving a Catholic priest when she was a young girl. The abuse and its aftermath is described in great detail. Audrey goes on to explain how her beliefs and life were negatively impacted long after the abuse ended. This book serves a greater purpose than a typical autobiography. It offers hope, help, and support for other victims of sexual exploitation. Audrey's story can be used as a resource for support of abuse victims. It is full of wisdom and insight only gained from years of soul searching and therapeutic intervention. This book is a must read!*

PM



*Often true power is experienced by those who have gone through an arduous journey. This is a powerful and heartfelt David and Goliath story that will inspire hope for anyone who has experienced any form of abuse and the violation of trust. From the ashes of pain a mighty Phoenix can emerge.*

*Steve Ahnael Nobel, author, spiritual mentor, and the creator of Soul Matrix Healing.*

*Steve Nobel*

*[The Soul Matrix](#)*



*As one who has worked with women for the past 30 years, I found *Out of the Shadows*, a very inspiring book. At the beginning of my career, women had normalized abuse. The words, sexual abuse, were not even in the vocabulary. Such actions by men were really considered, 'boys will be boys' and no thought given to the impact it had of the girls and women involved.*

*Audrey Yagalla had the courage to write her story and then to send it out into the world. May the rising up of voices such as Audrey's bring an end to our current cultures of rape, female discounting, and men believing that they have a 'right of ownership' over the female body.*

*.....continued*

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# Audrey Yagalla

## Testimonials...continued

*I am quoting some of her words that caused me to shout, "YES!" We need her insights in our lives today.*

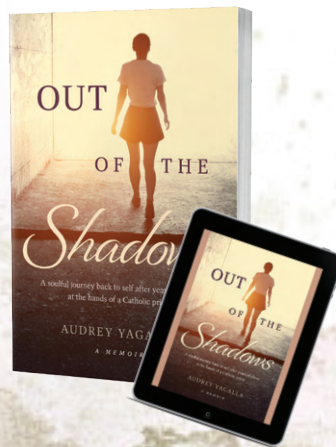
*"I offer this book to the ones who live within the shadows of their past. It is time to come out from hiding and rise like the light that you are destined to be. I offer you strength as you read and may anything that triggers you be easily and gracefully released fully for you to stand in your sovereignty."*

*To those who continue to fight against the injustices that have plagued humanity, I commend you for your steadfastness in creating the changes. Thank you for speaking your truth. Thank you for standing up in solidarity creating the changes you wish to see in the world."*

*"Yes, I choked all of this and so much more down. I suppressed the truth both literally and figuratively. The chokehold on the very core of my being had led to absolutely nothing fruitful in more than five years of hellish torment."*

Sharon Riegie Maynard

Founder of [Sacred Ground Collective](#) and the [TAG Galactic System of Transformation](#)



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# Contact Sheet



## Media Inquiries, Interviews

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## Book Audrey Yagalla for a Speaking Engagement

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## Reach out to Audrey:

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Website: [www.audreyyagalla.com](http://www.audreyyagalla.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/audreyyagalla>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/audrey\\_yagalla/](https://www.instagram.com/audrey_yagalla/)

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/Y\\_Audrey](https://twitter.com/Y_Audrey)

## Where to get “Out of the Shadows”

<https://tinyurl.com/s52bvr2v>

## Website Questions:

Email: [info@new72media.com](mailto:info@new72media.com)

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# Letter to Supporters of Skotek



*In a powerful, deeply felt manifesto that is a voice for all who have been abused, below are portions of an open letter to family, friends, and supporters of Audrey's abuser, Thomas D. Skotek. It recognizes the pain felt by everyone involved, and one that calls for sensible, equitable handling of pedophilia by both church and state to put an end to the silent suffering of victims around the world.*

*"And this is to those men and women who think they know the truth about what happened because you know him personally. Did he tell you how in his words, "our relationship" began? Did he tell you about how he came to St. Casimir's Church to help save the parish? Did he tell you that the building was beautiful and needed work? Did he tell you that he started bringing people back? Did he tell you that he started youth groups? Did he tell you that people loved him? Did he tell you how old we all were when we were asked, only girls, to be volunteer money counters? Did he tell you how he talked to each girl's parents to ask their permission? Did he tell you that he learned some things during those talks that would help guide him in making his choice? Did he tell you that it was at that first meeting with all of us that he started deciding who he would pick? Probably not. Did he tell you that the money counting room was directly across from his bedroom? What was his reasoning, if you were in contact with him then, about getting the security system put in?"*

*But I digress. This man who is your family member. This man that is your friend...did he tell you of the first time when I was 13 that he held my hand in the car on the way home, playing a love song and telling me this is how he felt? No? Did he speak to you of the next time that I saw him, and I told him that holding my hand was wrong, but then he kissed me instead? No? Hmm."*

*Let me ask you this: did he tell you about the first time he ever touched my vagina? Well, let me tell you about this, his first time to sexually violate my body. He sat me on the corner of the bed and knelt eye level to me. I remember that I was on the corner of the bed sitting. I remember him looking for my reaction. Fear. I remember him touching me through my panties and watching my face. Fear. Scared. I remember him reaching behind my undies and his hand touching my skin and then my vagina. Are you okay? No. I don't like it. You will, he replied. I remember the uncertainty of what was going on. I remember him touching my vagina when I was a young teenage girl. It's a movie reel that played over and over in my head for almost forty years. Did he tell you about that first time with me, when he took my true innocence away? No? Maybe you should ask him about that and all the other times that he had sex with me. Maybe you should ask him about how he taught me how he liked his penis held. Maybe you should ask him about how he taught me to put his penis in my mouth... because you know, if you put your teeth on it too hard, it would hurt him.*

*Maybe you should think and talk to him about all of these things... and then think of your sister, your daughter at the age of thirteen and her living through this. Perhaps you need to think about how you would feel knowing that a man thirty years older mounted a young girl and never stopped until she left and went to college. Perhaps you should ask him about the others in between and after me. Perhaps you should ask him about all of the ones before me, because I wasn't his first nor was I his last.*





# Letter to Supporters of Skotek ...continued



*My family grieves through the process. I acknowledge the pain that your family feels as well, but I ask you to please, please see this for what it was and is, pedophilia. I understand the anger. My family is angry as well. I understand the confusion and trying to piece it together. We are feeling this as well. I understand the shame that all of our families feel. What I do not understand is how you can justify a supposed man of God claiming that it was all right to molest a thirteen-year-old girl. That is never, ever all right nor okay.*

*I am more than just the girl who had the abortion that the church paid for. I am the girl who went to therapy at the Victim's Resource Center by herself. I am the girl who went to the bishop by herself. I am the girl who implored the bishop not to put him (Skotek) back into the church with a school. I am the girl who told the bishop not to put him back anywhere. I am the girl who wasn't listened to by the bishop. I am the girl who went to the district attorney. I am the girl who took proof. I'm the girl who did this all by herself. I am the girl would not let it rest just because his (Skotek's) brother died. I am the girl who faced my abuser head on... and nothing came of it. I am the girl who, because nothing came of it with a district attorney, went back to the bishop on her own to see what else could be done. I am the girl who thought of a number, was told to get an attorney, and in turn was told that the number was too much... because the diocese didn't have that kind of money. The number was \$90,000.*

*I'm the girl who followed and knew where he was and in what church. I am the girl who heard one day about another girl and her Mom having difficulties at that church. I am the girl who wrote a letter asking him to be moved, because I didn't think he was going to do it to anybody else (even though I didn't believe it). I am the girl who finally was able to get him moved by saying I didn't think he was going to do this to anyone else, all for the sake of helping another girl and not out of believing it. I tried through the years to have him taken out. (Bishop) Timlin never listened. He even told me one time that I said that it was okay to have him (Skotek) in a church again. I never ever said that. I am the girl who faced her abuser with a "Hi, Tom" while at a church bazaar... twice.*

*I am the girl that wrote Pope Francis in hopes that some-how I could help stop the pedophile epidemic within the church. I am the girl who was never given a response by the Vatican. I am the girl that married three times and was in relationships. I am the girl who was hospitalized, has triggers, PTSD. I am the girl that has held a full-time job within a school system for twenty-seven years. I am the girl who never let her girls be cheerleaders because of the stupid cheerleading uniform she put on and was not ever a cheerleader. I was the overprotective parent who was fearful because of deep-set fears from her own childhood. I am the girl who doesn't manage money*



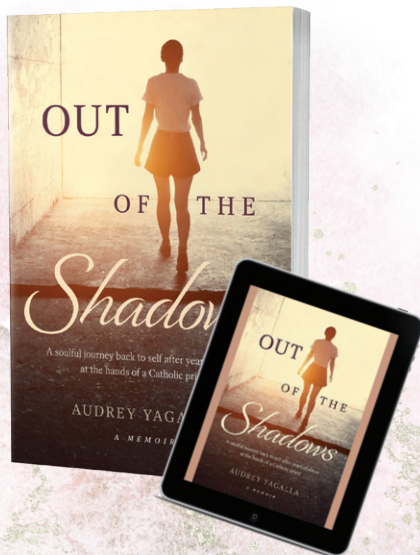


# Letter to Supporters of Skotek ...continued

*well even though I learned to keep a ledger in high school and even though I paid the church's bills and kept track of it all. I am the girl who hates cleaning house though I cleaned the rectory. I am the girl who hates shopping. I am the girl who gets frustrated in the weaknesses in herself... and can see the light in others, but sometimes not in herself. I am more than a survivor. And it's time for me to speak my truth so that mine, amongst many, will be heard finally.*

*I write this out of my love for humanity. I write this because I know that the Diocese of Scranton has attorneys and therapists that review cases even now. I know that they see the atrocities that come upon children. I can imagine that they, too, often wonder why the pedophile priest is not removed, but have no say in the papal doctrines that they are paid to follow. I know that this cycle will not stop until the institutions are made accountable to society's laws. One can contemplate society's lack of moral code. I believe that it is from lack of moral codes and ethics within religion that are creating the wave of allowance. Society sees it within the lawmakers, although not all, of our country as well. It permeates society. I believe it is the hundredth monkey theory in action."*

Excerpt From: Audrey Yagalla. "Out of the Shadows." iBooks.



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 Audrey  Yagalla





## What the Vatican Should Do Around Issues of Sexual Abuse and in Support of Survivors

*In an excerpt from Out of the Shadows - Chapter Nine: Insights and Growth:*

*“Healings the Vatican could (and should) bring about — The Vatican has the power to stand beside the survivors of sexual abuse and make radical changes unprecedented in religious history. It would mean many clerics having to face consequences, and it would mean the church having to pay out money to those who had no voice in the legal system, but it would signal that the Vatican is serious about ending the madness that has occurred far too long. Yes! The Vatican and Pope Francis could join the cause for reform of the laws and work with legislatures in that reform.*

*They could also have each guilty priest or bishop admit publicly they have abused, and have them publicly apologize. They could hold other bishops accountable for moving pedophile priests from one location to another, thus helping to affect greater healing among survivors of abuse.*

*This would be in alignment with the true teachings of Jesus.*

*The Vatican could be a greater force for God by accepting responsibility for the lives of individuals and families that remain forever changed and by removing the titles of all those who were sexually, emotionally, spiritually abusive. By revoking all privileges, by cessation of their monthly stipend, by making them surrender to local law enforcement or to papal authority if statutes of limitation have been reached.”*

*In brief, Audrey is calling on the Vatican to be completely accountable:*

- *Identify abusive priests*
- *Be open and transparent about what these priests have done*
- *Be open and transparent about the treatment they are getting*
- *State conclusively these abusers are no longer affiliated with or receive stipends from the Church*
- *State conclusively these abusers can no longer practice as priests and as persons, made very bad choices*
- *The Church has the money to do so much more: Monetary restitution notwithstanding, many survivors turn to drugs and alcohol, or can't drive, or are fearful to leave their homes; the Church must administer to survivors not based on religious beliefs, but other modalities*



# Audrey Yagalla

## What the Vatican Should Do Around Issues of Sexual Abuse and in Support of Survivors...continued

Survivors need names, information and an apology:

- Survivors need to have a list of abusive priests identified by the Church  
Priests that have admitted to sexual abuse need to be put on lists such as [Megan's Law](#) which originated in California. All states in the U.S. now have some form of Megan's Law. As an example, Skotek admitted abuse and is not on Megan's Law because he was never tried and convicted. The silence and allowance must end. It is not acceptable.
- Survivors need a serious, meaningful apology from the Church
- Survivors need an explanation as to why the behavior existed

In addition, a new Vatican law is set to take effect on December 8, 2021 criminalizing abuse of adults by priests and laity:

“Pope Francis has changed Catholic Church law to explicitly criminalize the sexual abuse of adults by priests who abuse their authority and to say that laypeople who hold church office also can be sanctioned for similar sex crimes. The new provisions, released...after 14 years of study, were contained in the revised criminal law section of the Vatican's Code of Canon Law, the in-house legal system that covers the 1.3 billion-member Catholic Church and operates independently from civil laws.

The Vatican also criminalized priests “grooming” minors or vulnerable adults to compel them to engage in pornography. The update represents the first time church law has officially recognized as a criminal act the method used by sexual predators to build relationships with victims they have targeted for sexual exploitation.”

Full AP Story here: [New Vatican Law](#)

Still, Audrey asks: What about those people affected before the new “Vatican law” goes into effect? And why did it take so long (14 years) to put these in place?

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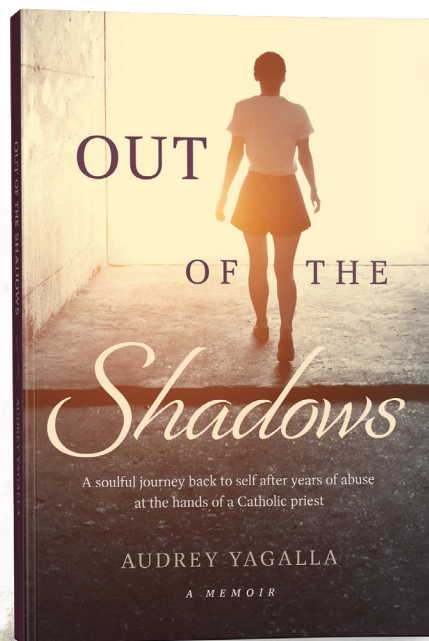




# Audrey Yagalla

*“...I no longer considered my progress toward greater understanding of myself as “work,” since the word work has some negative connotations for our society; instead, I considered it movement toward something greater.”*

## **“Out of the Shadows” Chapter Six: Healing Begins in Earnest**



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