

Scott C. Hicks  
4064 West Paul Avenue  
Fresno, California 93722

July 3, 1997

Bishop  
Diocese of Fresno  
1550 N. Fresno Street  
Fresno, California 93703

Dear Sir:

I was brought up in the Catholic Church, and in the mid 1960's I attended catechism at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Bakersfield, California.

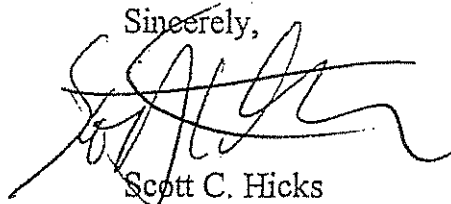
I am writing because I was sexually molested by Father Todd Brown when I was twelve years old in 1965. This took place on at least one occasion at the church during catechism. I have been in psychological counseling for several years related to childhood sexual abuse issues and have only recently come to the realization that the abuse perpetrated on me by Father Brown was not a fantasy, but a detailed memory.

For most of my life I have been vehemently opposed to any sort of organized Christian religion and I have only recently realized why I despised the church so strongly. I believe I have a casual relationship with God, but still have no place in my heart for the church.

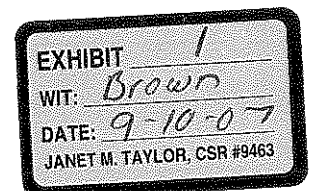
I request that you investigate the possibility that Father Brown is still perpetrating himself on children under the guise of trust as a priest. If he has not already been stopped, please do so now so that innocent children will be spared the adverse affects on their character, the loss of their self-esteem, and the loss of their faith in God.

Your cooperation and prompt attention to this matter is genuinely appreciated.

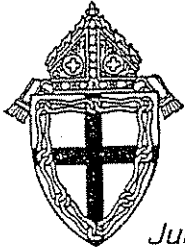
Sincerely,



Scott C. Hicks



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DIOCESE OF FRESNO  
PASTORAL CENTER

1550 NORTH FRESNO STREET  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93703-3788  
TELEPHONE: (209) 488-7400  
FAX: (209) 488-7464

July 11, 1997

Scott C. Hicks  
4064 W Paul Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93722

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Dear Mr. Hicks:

I am writing in response to your letter dated July 3, 1997, which I received when I came to my office on July 9th.

The Diocese has a policy regarding the receiving of an allegation of sexual abuse, of initiating immediately an investigation into the allegation to determine how to proceed. The first step of such an investigation is to interview the person making the allegation in order to determine the exact nature of the allegation.

The most qualified person to interview you is a trained person in these issues. I have asked Dr. Kevin McCready, a psychologist located in Clovis to do this on my behalf. I would ask you to please call him to set an appointment as early as possible, so that this matter may be addressed promptly. His office and phone number are: 3114 Willow Avenue, Clovis, 292-7572.

In response to your concern expressed at the end of your letter, I would mention that the priest in question has been ordained 34 years, has led an exemplary life, and has never had any such allegation against him in all those years.

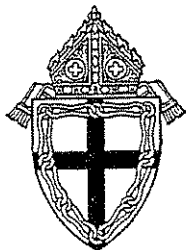
If you have any questions about this process, please contact Monsignor Wayne Hayes at 826-4246. Be assured of my prayers as we move forward in this matter.

Sincerely,

*+ John T. Steinbock*

Most Reverend John T. Steinbock  
Bishop, Diocese of Fresno

cc: Dr. Kevin McCready  
Rev. Msgr. J. Wayne Hayes, P.A.



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1550 NORTH FRESNO STREET  
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TELEPHONE: (209) 488-7400  
FAX: (209) 488-7461

August 6, 1997

Mr. Scott Hicks  
4064 W. Paul Ave.  
Fresno, California 93722

Dear Mr. Hicks:

First, let me extend to you our deepest concern for your well being and peace of mind. We also wish to express our thanks and appreciation for bringing this to our attention.

Bishop John Steinbock has received the initial comments of Dr. Kevin McCready PhD.

Bishop Steinbock has reviewed your letter with me and requested that I investigate this matter on his behalf.

We will strive to maintain confidentiality of this matter to the extent possible while conducting this investigation.

As Bishop Steinbock mentioned in his July 11, 1997 letter to you, our preliminary investigation has revealed no indication of inappropriate behavior or activity other than your letter.

Even though the preliminary investigation does not reveal any inappropriate behavior beyond your letter, based on Bishop Steinbock's inquiries to date, we believe you do not need to be concerned about other persons.

My investigation of the event reported in your July 3, 1997 letter as having occurred in 1965 has begun and is continuing.

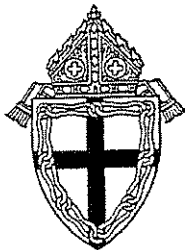
Should you recall any other related events, people, locations or any other information that may aid me in this investigation, please contact me at my direct line, 488-7488.

I will diary my file to recontact you by mail in thirty days as an update.

Sincerely,

R. Patrick Gordon, SPHR  
Diocesan Director of Human Resources

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1550 NORTH FRESNO STREET  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93703-3788  
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FAX: (209) 488-7461

~~September 29, 1997~~

Mr. Scott Hicks  
4064 W. Paul Ave.  
Fresno, California 93722

Dear Mr. Hicks:

I have completed my investigation as part of our pastoral response to your July 3, 1997 letter.

In regards to Fr. Brown, no records of inappropriate behavior have been found from the time of his ordination to the present day, with the exception of your statements in your July 1997 letter. His life, as we know it, has been an extremely public one and subject to scrutiny and investigation. We are confident that should there have been any other complaints similar in nature to your memory, they would have been discovered and addressed.

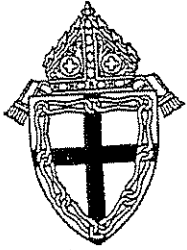
As part of our concern for your well being and peace of mind, I would like to extend an invitation for you to come in and visit with me so I may review the results of my research with you.

Please call me at my direct line, 488-7488, for a day and time.

Sincerely,

R. Patrick Gordon, SPHR  
Diocesan Director of Human Resources

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Fresno, California 93722

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Sincerely,

R. Patrick Gordon, SPHR  
Diocesan Director of Human Resources

records kept only 10 yrs  
none regarding class  
attendance

Sister Mary

looking for any other  
pattern for removing  
kids from class?

Bishop John has  
spoken w/ B. Todd  
administrator

Smith dead - uneasy  
about knowledge that  
Smith was drunk.

Bill Sheldon name  
given by me.

March 10, 2002

His Eminence Roger Cardinal Mahoney  
3424 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Dear Cardinal Mahoney:

I am writing to let you know that I appreciate what you are doing by attempting to bring justice to those clergy who have (and still are) molesting children. I have also corresponded with Cardinal Law on this same subject and as I wrote him, I imagine that you are probably not too popular with the Church and your own parishioners right now!

I am a survivor of childhood sexual abuse by my former priest that occurred, while attending catechism, when I was growing up in Bakersfield, California. It seems that I have always hated the Catholic Church. For many years I blamed this feeling on the focus of the church on contributions. After having been in therapy for over eleven years, I now understand my reason for this. Another perpetrator who sexually abused me was also associated with the priest.

A few years ago, I contacted Bishop Steinbock of the Fresno area diocese, met with their psychologist, and finally met with their human relations person. The human relations person assured me that my former priest was an administrator and that he had no more contact with children. The human relations person also mentioned talking with one of the nuns who may have been a teacher when I attended catechism. She claimed that children were never removed from her classroom. My first encounter was through confession, not as a result of being removed from catechism. The human relations person seemed more concerned about the shortage of priests in the Church than any abuse. He felt that since my former priest was no longer in day-to-day contact with children, I should not be concerned.

Bishop Steinbock spoke about me to my former priest, who is currently the Bishop of the Diocese of Orange. That priest, of course, denied any wrongdoing. I found it interesting to note that when I read the bio on my former priest, there was no mention of his years spent in Bakersfield at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. According to his official biography, he went directly from being trained in San Francisco to being an administrator in the Monterey Diocese.

I will not bother you with more details. I just hope that what you are trying to do becomes an official policy of the Catholic Church and other churches around the world. I cannot say that I would ever return to the Church, but I have been able to develop a spiritual self and have my own relationship with God.

Sincerely,

Scott Hicks  
4064 West Paul  
Fresno, CA 93722

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February 9, 2002

His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Law  
2101 Commonwealth Av.  
Boston MA 02135-3192

Dear Cardinal Law:

I wanted to let you know that I appreciate what you are doing by attempting to bring justice to those clergy who have (and still are) molesting children. I imagine that you are probably not too popular with the Church right now!

Do you know if other dioceses in the United States are interested in your policy, particularly in California? I am a survivor of childhood sexual abuse by my former priest that occurred when I was growing up in Bakersfield, California. It seems that I have always hated the Catholic Church. For many years I blamed this feeling on the focus of the church on contributions. After having been in therapy for over eleven years, I now understand my reason for this. Another perpetrator who sexually abused me was also associated with the priest.

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Scott Hicks  
4064 West Paul  
Fresno, CA 93722

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Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-7284

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

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March 26, 2002

Scott Hicks  
4064 West Paul  
Fresno, CA 93722

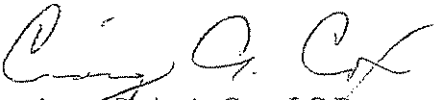
Dear Mr. Hicks:

Cardinal Mahony has asked me to respond to your letter of March 10, 2002. I profoundly regret that you yourself experienced childhood sexual abuse, and I commend you on the progress you made in your therapy. It is a very good thing that you have developed your spiritual self and have a healthy relationship with God.

Cardinal Mahony is strongly committed to the process of facing and dealing with abuse of children, whether perpetrated by priests, deacons or any other minister of the Church. While our human condition means we can never expect to root out all sinfulness, we will do our best to prevent child abuse and to assure the integrity of the Church's ministry. Please pray for the success of these efforts.

Thank you again for writing. May God bless you.

Sincerely yours,

  
Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.  
Vicar for Clergy