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RDINAL'S RESIDENCE 2101 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE 3HTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135-3192

February 23, 1994

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Thank you for your letter of February 8th concerning Father Real Bourque. It was a letter I found difficult to read and one you probably found difficult to write. I appreciate your courage in being so forthright.

What you describe as happening to you and other young boys should never have occurred. Such actions are a betrayal of the priestly office and, as you know, a source of great pain and disillusionment. I am sorry for what happened to you.

I know that no words of mine can take away your hurt. Yet, I would like to offer whatever assistance I can to help you. I am asking my delegate who assists me in these matters, Sister Catherine Mulkerrin, CSJ, to be in contact with you and I am also informing Father Bourque's provincial about your letter. Sister Catherine's telephone number is (617) 254-0100 extension 142.

May God's healing love be yours. You are remembered in my prayers.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Boston