

February 5, 1973

Archbishop Thomas J. McDonough
Louisville, Ky.

Dear Sir,

As a concerned member of the St. Thomas Parish in Bardonia, I felt there was a need for me to write this letter in hoping there would be some sort of action taken. I am 17 years old and a senior at Bethlehem High School. I guess you could say I am fortunate enough to attend a catholic high school. I went to grade school at St. Thomas. I have one sister attending the grade school now. It seems that Father Dollinger is too "extremely" busy to come to talk to the children or even attend special events held there. I know when I was in grade school we knew the priest very well and they were always in the school. This is only one of my complaints. Now that I am older I really appreciate all this special attention we received. Secondly, the girls and boys who attend the county

schools have received really no special religious education. I beg as I should say, we are excluded from special events. Father Dolbige has driven so many people away from that church it is horrifying, it isn't just the young but the old. I've ones that still attend mass there either sit in the back of church or they sleep through mass. I myself am utterly bored with mass over there. Somedays I feel like getting up in church and singing that old favorite "Give me that old time religion". I have never heard such immature sermons in my life. Last Sunday he proceeded to explain to us how Mark didn't like to explain the violent parts in his scripture. He treats his congregation as if we were in nursery school. As I looked around in church I noticed 85% of the congregation was asleep as I myself dozed off. I don't believe I've ever seen a priest draw pictures all over the bulletin or make up puzzles or write ~~off~~ jokes on one either. If I wasn't fortunate to attend a school that had the excess of the priests of the other parishes I'm afraid I would have lost all hope for the church. Father

Dallinger doesn't know a thing about the new modern church and I don't think he wants to. He has this parish so messed up if you don't help us now there won't be anything but Boy Scouts out here. We are as messed up as the Democratic Party was last year. Father seems to want to just sit in his house all day and play with his dogs, or be in Louisville with his boy scouts. You may think I'm being highly critical of him but I've only touched the subject lightly. Please sir, if you don't do something pretty soon there won't be one person left in that church anymore. This may sound like a lonely plea but if one 17 year old student would sit down and write to you there must be something awfully bad going on out here. I thank God there are some decent priests around here from St. Catherine's in New Haven, Father Bryan in Culvertown and the priests in St. Joseph's in Bardonia. I thank you for listening to me. Please answer me if there is any way you can ^{do to} remove him from this parish. I thank you.

DAR 00996

Sincerely yours,
Kathy Edelen
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