

Archbishop Thomas Kelly
P.O. Box 1073
Louisville, KY 40201

MS-7

October 19, 1992

Dear Archbishop Kelly,

I decided to write to you after following the news coverage of Fr. Porter's case, in the Boston Globe here. As you must know, he is the focus of many accusations of sexual abuse of children who are now adults.

Like these people, I am a survivor of childhood sexual abuse by a priest (and also by a Xaviarian brother) when I was growing up in Louisville.

Most of my life I was afraid to tell anyone about these incidents and tried to forget they had happened. Only in recent years, after a lot of psychological counseling and therapy, have I begun to realize the extent of the damage caused by not acknowledging these experiences and not processing the feelings.

I wanted to write a letter to the Courier Journal about what happened to me and state the name of the priest and the brother who I'm referring to, because I felt that if I could express what happened to me in the open, it would help my own healing and might raise some public consciousness to the issue. I know that many other boys at Holy Spirit School and St. Joe Prep in Bardstown were victims of these men's manipulations. I feel that to talk about this will help in the healing of others, as well.

I don't wish to see these men punished except by the public exposure of their actions. I no longer feel ashamed of having been a victim.

I've been able to tell my parents about these incidents after over 30 years of silence and it is because you know one another and that they hold you in some regard, that I decided to contact you before I made a more public case.

I was deeply saddened to see the Archbishop of Boston respond with anger and denial at the first allegations against Fr. Porter. However, as the extent of the truth became known and public sentiment became clear, he apologized for his initial response.

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So many people - so many children - are victims. We must do everything we can to stop the cycle of abuse. I'm certain that one important way is to try to help heal every survivor by sharing our stories and hope to expose the abusers and understand what causes people to exploit children this way.

I understand that the priest who abused me at Holy Spirit is still working in a parish in Louisville.

I know this matter is important to you and I would appreciate hearing from you about it.

Sincerely , [REDACTED]

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