

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

MS-7

November 4, 1992

Dear Archbishop Kelly,

Thank you for your kind reply to my letter. As I told my parents, I was impressed by your response and tend to agree that since my family is living in Louisville (and I'm not), it would be they who might have to bear the impact of a public exposure of the previously mentioned incidents of my childhood sexual abuse in school and camp.

I know very well that stories like my own were wide-spread among boys I knew growing up, especially at Holy Spirit School. The name of that priest is Fr. Louis Miller. He was the assistant pastor to Fr. Vance during those years. I know that he was removed sometime in the early 1960's from Holy Spirit after one of the boys told his father about what Fr. Miller was doing. No one seemed to know where he went. But, later I learned he was assigned to a parish somewhere in another part of Louisville - perhaps after sometime away.

The other person I would name was a Xavierian Brother who was a "counselor" at Camp Christopher - a summer boarding camp for boys at St. Joseph Prep in Bardstown. I have not been able to remember his name, though I knew he instructed or oversaw swimming at the camp. His supervisor was named Br. Desales - a very fine man whom I liked a lot. The incidents involving this "counselor" preceded the other incidents with Fr. Miller and were probably more traumatic because I was only 7 or 8 years old and had never lived away from home before. I felt terrified, vulnerable and powerless in that situation and, in some ways, deserted by my parents.

It was after that summer that I began to exhibit symptoms of some disturbance by acting out in school - an extreme change that caused my teacher to recommend that I be sent to the schoolboard psychologist, Dr. [REDACTED]. This was a disaster. He scared me more than anyone and I don't believe I ever told him about the incidents of abuse because I wanted to get out of his office as quickly as possible. I learned

recently that he himself was the focus of accusations of child sexual abuse. I found this news sadly ironic.

I believe that with a little research, I can recall the name of the Xaverian Brother of whom I speak.

You must know how wide-spread these kinds of incidents have been - and, not just in Catholic institutions. Yet, there seem to be a lot more stories that are connected with Catholic religious persons - at least that I am aware of. Looking back, the Catholic view (perhaps blindness) regarding sex as a part of human wholeness, was much distorted for many years. No one can be blamed for this - it was a phase of ignorance and fear from which we can hope we are immerging as our consciousness grows.

Still, in the name of consciousness and truth, these kinds of crimes against children and the human family must be seen in the light. It is the only way we can learn.

I have a feeling that more and more of these stories will be coming to light. In my own sphere, I frequently encounter people and have many friends, who have similar stories. Many are only beginning to get counseling and therapy. Some, like me are ready to express their stories in the open to bring public awareness to the problem.

I urge you to be aggressive about uncovering individuals who have violated children, before one of these cases appears in the newspapers in Louisville.

No one is perfect. We are all working out of our ignorance bit by bit. We must recognize what is human about us and accept ourselves. It is the first step to loving ourselves, so we can love others and not harm them.

I know how these stories about religious persons can shatter peoples' trust, as my own trust was shattered as a child-victim. I know that there are many sincere people with convictions for good who understand what real love is and who are trying to work through the institution of the Catholic Church.

My own belief is that the time will come when all religions will dissolve before the light of awakened truth. They will have served their purpose, but will no longer be necessary. Love will live in hearts because it is our nature and people will recognize themselves in one another. Compassion will be the order of life.

Before this day can come, the truth must be allowed to blossom wherever it comes. We must recognize it in ourselves and welcome it in others.


What can I do to help? I trust you to listen to me and to use your intelligence and your office to help sweep away some darkness from the hearts and souls of those you influence.

Thank you again for your openness to me. It is much appreciated. I will be happy to talk with you by phone anytime or in person when you and I are in the same place.

Thank you also for your personal concern for my parents and for your expression of empathy in this sometimes difficult process of healing and forgiveness.

Sincerely,

MS-7


Evenings: 
Daytime: 