

January 27, 1997³

MS-7

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

Dear Archbishop Kelly,

I want to thank you for your telephone call to me last month. I had to take some time to reflect on our conversation. It was not entirely comfortable for me to speak openly with you then since I was at work and not in private. For myself, I am not ashamed to talk about the issue of my sexual abuse as a child. But, it would not have been appropriate for one of our guests here at the Health Center to share in the conversation about it. So, I was a bit reserved.

Thank you for what I felt was your sincere regret about what happened to me. On some level, it helps to be able to share these experiences with you and believe you are empathetic. It was not always my view that priests could be trusted. That will still take some time for me to work through.

I was somewhat relieved to hear you say that Louis Miller is not in a Parish position now. But, your statement to me about him having had "behavior modification" left me puzzled. Perhaps you can tell me what this involved. I would also like to know what assurance there is that he stopped molesting children after this "behavior modification."

You requested the year that I was sexually abused at Camp Christopher (St. Joe Prep) in Bardstown. It was Summer, 1958. The abuser was a Xavierian brother who supervised the swimming. I have blocked out his name and, I think, some of the details of the experiences of being molested by him. I can remember the name of the Director of the Camp at that time was Dr. Desales who seemed to be a very fine person. I was nine years old at that time.

Between the traumatic incidents at this Camp when I was nine, the sexual abuse and fear at Holy Spirit School with Fr. Miller over a period of several years, the terrifying encounter with Dr. [REDACTED] when I was sent to him, and all of the fear, shame and confusion associated with these and other related experiences, I had a rather unhappy time growing up and really struggled to survive the psychological and emotional shattering that resulted.

MILLER.DOC 0371

Archbishop Thomas Kelly

Page Two

I can tell you that now, after having spent some fruitful time and work in therapy, I am really proud of myself for surviving as well as I did. I'm still working on the anger and the feelings of betrayal. I understand better why I have never been able to sustain relationships with intimacy and always feared so many things about people. I can see why I was afraid of fathering children into a world where they could be as vulnerable as I was. I could not bear that. And, I understand better why, for over 30 years, I fought to protect my own parents from the pain of what happened to me by keeping it a secret from them.

I want to tell you, I know I have a lot of work to do, at the age of 43, to try to recover the truth of who I am. And, I am determined to do it. I do, however, resent deeply that I have had to spend considerable money in paying for therapy and, I foresee having to spend a lot more to get help with this.

I feel no reticence, at this point, to ask the Archdiocese for help in paying for this therapy. No amount of money can repair the damage done by these people to me. And, though there is a part of me that feels there is little dignity in either requesting or receiving money relating to this issue, there is a more over-riding sense that it is eminently fair and necessary to seek some support in this way. I recognize that I do need therapy just so I can begin to lead a normal life. And, it seems reasonable that the Archdiocese provide some assistance.

If you do not agree, please let me know. But, I hope I will receive your compassion and some relief in this effort.

Thank you again for all of your own efforts.

Sincerely,

MS-7



MS-7 kad

MILLER.DOC 0372