

April 7, 1993

Thomas C Kelly, O.P.
Archbishop of Louisville
Chancery Office
212 East College Street
Louisville, Kentucky

Your Excellency,

The past three years have left our family dealing with some grave emotions - strong feelings of resentment, mistrust, and betrayal. We sincerely hope this Lenten season will bring us a spiritual healing we so desperately seek.

We left your office three years ago in December with confidence that you would keep your word and follow through with your promises regarding a serious matter with Father Louis Miller and our son **MS-6**. However, as time passed, it didn't take long to realize that this information was taken lightly by the Church. None-the-less, we kept thinking and hoping you would respond. We are aware that you deal with all matters of the Church and that you have magna responsibilities. Indeed, sexual misconduct by parish priests must be of great concern to you.

We were very pleased and grateful that the issue of sexual abuse was addressed in the Record on February 4, 1993. A section of your article stated "and afterwards, to provide comfort and assistance in the healing process for victims and their families and for those who are afflicted with this awful disorder." The five guidelines to follow were very specific in the June 25, 1992 and November 26, 1992 issues of the Record. Both mentioned these

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had been introduced five years ago. In November, there was also a resolution passed by the U.S. Bishops. A paragraph stated "All our actions should show our Church as a living, caring, and healing Church. We pledge again our care and concern for all victims of abuse, wherever and however it occurs." However, when our family was confronted with this problem three years ago, all of these guidelines were not met. It seems the last two were forgotten.

With no positive action from the Church after a reasonable time, it was suggested that [MS-6] seek legal action. We wrote a letter to you (a copy of which is enclosed) dated April 13, 1990 stating we thought we had your support when you acted genuinely concerned. A psychologist has said "Time without action leads to despair." This is so true. There must be communication!

Our daughter-in-law's effort to explain to you how this affected [MS-6] and his family as a whole landed in a dead end when you were represented by [Ford] on April 13, 1990. Apparently, from the beginning, [Ford] had felt that this misconduct was definitely not a ten. But then how does he or any person determine how any abuse (whatever the actions) is dealt with by the victim? You promised Father Miller would be evaluated and you would get back with us. We are still waiting. We wanted help for both [MS-6] and Father Miller. Could you not see how detrimental this was? Were you so close to the problem that you did not realize the long term effects this would/could have on a family, not to mention how a victim must suffer before he/she can come to terms with such feelings? And what about the offender? You

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were/are aware that his sexual misconducts go back quite a few years. We have reason to believe there were encounters before and after [MS-6]. Shouldn't he be provided the assistance in the healing process? Last spring, we understand that he was again placed at a parish with a school. The school was still open. That is a lot of temptation. It seems all across the nation Bishops have been moving pedophiles from parish to parish without informing parents. Perhaps all parents need to read the book Lead Us Not Into Temptation.

There had to be much feedback from many sources in order for the Church even to consider guidelines, Bishops' meetings, approval of a "healing" resolution, as well as your much needed articles in the Record.

Remember, [MS-6] was not in regular therapy when he first came to you, nor did he receive any during the lengthy time awaiting justice if that is what you call it. He was not financially in a position to attend sessions and would not accept any help from us. He started therapy in the summer of 1991 and has found he had still been in denial until about six months ago.

When you saw him in December, 1989, he really was in a state of bewilderment, not knowing exactly how he felt or how all this affected his life. He has now indicated that it will take a lot more time and therapy than was originally estimated. The ramifications of this act have affected a multitude of areas in [MS-6] life; and he no longer "thinks the world of Father Miller." How then could you and [Ford] have been in a position to take

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this so lightly when no one in your administration or legal council could have known the implications that this act could have had on MS-6 either short term or long term?

When MS-6 and his wife finally had a deposition with the Church, the treatment they received was unnecessary, insensitive and offensive. They were made to feel more like the criminals instead of victims. Just recently, MS-6 has stated how much he felt belittled and humiliated. After all, Father had already admitted his guilt. Why was the grilling necessary? Is this how the Church is suppose to "reach out to victims?" We hardly think so.

Apparently, it seems victims have a need to continue a regular dialogue as was mentioned in the Record. That is one thing that had been absent during this whole ordeal. No response - no dialogue. In fact, the article by Joseph DUKY indicated that "the alleged victim and/or the family will be encouraged to receive care from mental health professionals, with the Archdiocese providing the resources for such care." Sounds good on paper.

In order for our healing to continue, we needed to write this letter. We were given poor advice as to not telling the rest of the family of the situation from the beginning. If anything, MS-6 needed the support of his siblings.

Over the past three years, we have attended Mass at St. Elizabeth only a handful of times. The memories are painful. You need to keep in mind that along with all of life's human shortcomings, we thought of Father Miller as a good friend. We trusted

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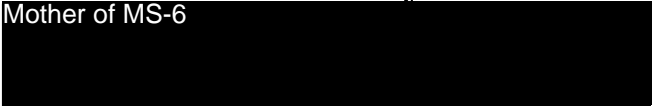
him with our children!

As you read this, we hope you have a better understanding of how a situation such as this can deeply hurt all concerned: the victim, the offender, the family, and the Church.

We need dialogue. We are hoping for a response. Let the upcoming Easter season be a time for a new beginning bringing new hope.

Sincerely,

Father of MS-6


Mother of MS-6


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