



SECRETARIAT OF STATE

FROM THE VATICAN. August 10, 1987

The Secretariat of State transmits for information the enclosed letter from [REDACTED] of Los Angeles. No reply has been sent.

O. Rizzato

Monsignor O. Rizzato

Department Head

Magr. Driscoll

Michael -

8/26

*I will answer if you'd like -
but, due to the contents,
you might want to.*

Ann

51000067

June 4, 1987

His Holiness John Paul II
Vatican City, Italy

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter I had mailed to you several months ago. The reason was Father Anderson of St Bonaventure Catholic Church in Huntington Beach, California. This priest was on trial for child abuse, he admitted to his guilt.

I am Episcopalian however I come from an Irish Catholic family and have always felt a kinship with the Catholic religion, as I believe we all follow the same laws for humanity set down by God. Therefore I do not understand the reaction of the Catholic Church in this matter.

I don't think I ever expected an answer from you, or your office, but I guess since the recent scandal of the PTL people and the growing lack of confidence of those who preach God's word I felt I needed to write to you again. Although I have never been a Catholic member I have always looked to the Pope as a symbol of the true and pure belief in God and Christ. I guess I need reassurance that you believe in what you say and the Bible's teachings and believe that the children are a great blessing from God that need our protection and love, not only when it is popular but more so when it is not.

Thank you for your time.

God Bless You,

enc

51000068

His Holiness Pope John Paul II
Vatican City, Italy

Your Holiness,

I am not Catholic so please forgive my letter if it is not titled correctly. I am writing this letter out of desperation and heartache.

I live in Los Angeles, California and have been following the trial of Father Andrew Christian Anderson. He was accused of molesting altar boys at St Bonaventure Catholic Church in Huntington Beach, California. He admitted to his guilt.

It was brought out in the trial that Father Anderson had committed this crime once before. The Church sent him to counseling. After that he molested 3 more boys. And now he was given 5 years probation and sent to more counseling for 7 months to a year.

Eleven years ago my brother was sexually abused by a deacon. My brother only recently told me of his abuse. He kept it locked inside of him for all those years out of fear. He had been told by the deacon, that it was his fault. My brother believed him because you are taught to believe "men of God". If there is hell on earth my brother has lived through it because of this man using God as a shield. The statute of limitations is 3 years, my hands are tied legally. The doctors I have talked to have told me, knowing the deacon's past, he is more than likely still abusing children today. To stop him we must catch him in the act. Which means sacrificing another child.

Your Father Anderson has the support of your church and many of the congregation. Many don't believe his guilt even after his confession. The Father said, after his trial; "We have all suffered. I ask for healing and forgiveness not only for myself but for my church".

Neither the Father nor his congregation mentioned anything about the victim. The children.

I have seen what happens to Priest who go against the church on the abortion topic. The fact that the Catholic church allows Father Anderson to remain a Priest after what he did before and after counseling and with the knowledge that Father Anderson may never be "cured", it seems to me that the church is more interested in protecting the unborn child than the born.

51000069

I feel that until we begin to recognize child abuse as a crime on society as well as a violent crime to our children we will never have laws past that protect instead of putting time limits on a timeless crime. If the Catholic Church would punish Father Anderson instead of hiding him in some small church in New Mexico perhaps others will look on child abuse as a real threat. And perhaps laws will be past that do not require more sacrifice for a conviction.

I know we are not suppose to be judgemental and we are to feel compassion, especially for the ill which Father Anderson is, but is this "out of sight, out of mind" method of dealing with the crime derived from Godly compassion or mortal embarrassment?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



51000070