#8143

5 GREENOUGH PARK
JAMAICA PLAIN MA 02130-2821

January 19, 1994

Your Eminence:

Re: Rev. John J. Geoghan '62

This is in response to your open letter dated December 31, 1993 which was inserted in our parish bulletin. I felt prompted to send it to a woman who told me in the latter 1970's that not only her three sons but her three nephews on visits to her home were sexually molested by a priest. She would not tell me the priest's name because she was fearful about causing "scandal in the Church."

In response to your letter which I mailed to her, she sent an angry reply asking why the several priests to whom she had poured out her heart through the subsequent years didn't tell you. She also asked where was I (the church) at the time? These are all valid questions and deserve acknowledgment and appropriate answers. The only thing I could advise her then was to tell the pastor. Of course, I was distressed and sickened, but beyond that I didn't know what to do! Undoubtedly the priests she told had the same reaction. I don't know what steps were taken except the usual transfers, which we are now painfully aware did nothing but spread the misery and destroy still more families and lives.

It was only a matter of days ago that I elicited the priest's name from her. I told her I was going to inform you. When I looked up the name in the 1993 Boston Catholic Directory I found he has been stationed at St. Julia Parish in Weston. I telephoned the parish and was told that he has been transferred to Regina Cleri. Thank God he is out of a parish setting!

The name of this mother is [redacted] I first met her when a Charismatic Prayer Group was started at St. Thomas Aquinas in '76. Even though she did not belong to our parish, Maryetta used to come with her three oldest children. We all loved her and were impressed with her gentle, sweet and loving manner. She was married to a non-Catholic and her fervent prayer and fondest hope was that he convert to Catholicism.

I do not feel it my place to give any further details. Maryetta does need help. She is now divorced. Her three sons are now in their twenties; one was discharged from the armed forces for attempting suicide. There are four younger children. Maryetta herself is a casualty. This is heartbreakingly apparent to me from recent conversations.

My hope and prayer is that she will be given the kind of assistance she needs and deserves. Personally, I feel a large part of the solution is prayer. As a result of prayer, and God's timing - my family received the first telephone call in 16 years from our daughter who has been in a destructive religious cult. May God be praised forever for this miracle!

[redacted]

[redacted]