



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
300 WYOMING AVENUE
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503-1279

August 25, 2006

Dear Parishioner:

A short while ago, I accepted the resignation of your pastor, Monsignor J. Peter Crynes. I did so in light of the fact that, following credible accusations, Monsignor admitted to the Diocese of Scranton that he had engaged in unchaste behavior in the past with high school girls.

I know that the news of Monsignor's resignation was very hurtful to you, since you correctly esteemed Monsignor for the many good and zealous priestly deeds which he did on your behalf. Surely you must know that I myself was deeply saddened and disheartened when I accepted Monsignor's resignation. It gives a Bishop no pleasure to accept the resignation of any priest, especially an admired priest like Monsignor Crynes. Furthermore, I know that many criticize the way in which the news of Monsignor's admission and subsequent resignation were communicated to the parishioners. I regret the pain and sorrow which you experienced, but I know of no other way by which a communication of such sad facts can be made easy or comfortable for the listeners.

It is my prayerful hope that you will come to be consoled by the fact that as your Bishop, I intend to hold all officials of the Diocese, especially the clergy, to the highest standards of conduct. You need to be free of all fear that your children are not safe when under the care of the personnel, entities, and programs of the Diocese of Scranton. Jesus expects His Bishops to be salt, light, and leaven for His People. Since it is on that basis that I will face divine judgment some day, I intend to serve Our Lord diligently as your Bishop.

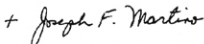
At present, the preliminary investigation into Monsignor Crynes' conduct has been completed. This preliminary investigation has been carried out in strict adherence to the Church's *Code of Canon Law*, which guarantees the rights of both the accused and the accuser. In accord with the Church's law, I am now obliged to send Monsignor Crynes' case to Rome for further review and direction. Without having the conclusions of the preliminary investigation before me, I did not feel it appropriate to write to you prior to this time.

Obviously, these are sad times for those who have brought these charges to my attention, for the parishioners of Saint Therese, for the broader diocesan family, for me, and for Monsignor himself. I understand that many would like more information. However, you know well that in life, some things cannot be made public. We must practice common courtesy and observe the confidentiality imposed by the Church's juridical procedures. Many of you are obligated to confidentiality in your professions, jobs, and even in family matters. I trust that you will respect my resolve to make no further comment about this matter.

Let us pray together that the Lord Jesus will give us all renewed fervor to follow Him with single-heartedness and conversion of soul to holiness in life.

Assuring you of my prayers as I ask for yours, I am,

Sincerely in Our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph F. Martino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Joseph F. Martino, D.D., Hist. E.D.
Bishop of Scranton