



DIOCESE OF PATERSON

Diocesan Center
777 Valley Road
Clifton, New Jersey 07013

Office of
THE BISHOP

(973) 777-8818 Fax (973) 777-8976

October 17, 2006

Ms. Patricia M. Clancy



Dear Ms. Clancy:

Thank you for your letter of October 5, 2006. I would like to reply to your concerns by reviewing the facts.

In October of 1993, you advised the Diocese of Paterson through Monsignor Zazella (now deceased) that you had been sexually abused by Rev. George A. Costigan (presently eighty (80) years old) between the years of 1965 to 1972 when Rev. Costigan was a Christian Brother. You should note that Rev. Costigan was not even ordained as a priest of this Diocese until 1974.

In response to your allegation, Rev. Costigan retired in 1993, and, in 1994, his faculties were revoked and he was placed on administrative leave. This was communicated to you by correspondence from Monsignor Zazella dated October 4, 1994. In that correspondence, Monsignor Zazella advised you that Rev. Costigan had retired, that he had been placed on administrative leave with no faculties and that he was not permitted to offer Mass publicly or to administer the Sacraments in the Diocese of Paterson or in any other Diocese. By correspondence dated March 15, 1996 in reply to your concern that the Diocese had not offered any assistance to you, Monsignor Zazella offered to arrange for counseling for you at the expense of the Diocese.

Finally, please note that in 2002, the Diocese notified the Prosecutors in Passaic, Morris and Sussex Counties of your allegations against Rev. Costigan. These authorities took no action due to the expiration of the criminal statute of limitations which had long since expired and which had expired at the time of your initial report in October of 1993.

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Rev. Costigan remains retired, on administrative leave and without faculties. He is not permitted to offer Mass publicly or to administer the Sacraments in the Diocese of Paterson or in any other Diocese.

I assure you that I will keep you in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Arthur J. Serratelli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Rev. Arthur J. Serratelli, S.T.D., S.S.L., D.D.
Bishop of Paterson