

4-10-02

CARDINAL ROGER MAHONY
ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES
3424 WILSHIRE BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA.90010-2241

DEAR CARDINAL MAHONY;

MY NAME IS . AND I AM A SURVIVOR OF MOLESTATION BY TWO PRIESTS WHILE I WAS AN ALTAR BOY AT SAINT BENEDICTS CHURCH IN MONTEBELLO DURING THE YEARS OF 1963 THRU APROXIMATELY 1967.

YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW THAT FATHER MATHIAS WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE ALTAR BOY PROGRAM AND FATHER FRANCIS, WERE MOLESTING ALTAR BOYS DURING THOSE YEARS. I ALSO ATTENDED SAINT BENEDICTS SCHOOL FOR EIGHT YEARS.

I HAVE SUFFERED FOR MANY YEARS WITH HATEING MYSELF, SEVERE DEPRESSION, CONSTANT SUICIDAL THOUGHTS, AND RAGE OVER THE MOLESTATION I WAS PUT THROUGH .

I HAVE RECENTLY SEEN, READ, AND HEARD OF OTHER BOYS GOING THROUGH THE SAME TREATMENT THAT I HAD, WHICH HAS FINALLY GIVEN ME THE COURAGE TO ADMIT WHAT HAPPENED AND CONTACT YOU.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I LOST MY FAITH AND HAVE NOT ATTENDED CHURCH FOR NEARLY TWENTY YEARS UNTIL JUST RECENTLY. I COULDN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF WALKING INTO A CHURCH AND HEAR A PRIEST PREACH TO ME .

I HAVE BEGUN TRYING TO REBUILD MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. I REALIZE THAT IT WASN'T MY FAULT FOR WHAT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS A CHILD. BACK IN THOSE DAYS WE WERE TAUGHT THAT A PRIEST WAS LIKE GOD, AND NEVER QUESTION HIS AUTHORITY.

I DON'T FEEL IT WOULD BE RIGHT TO EXPLAIN TO YOU WHAT HAPPENED AS TO THE SEXUAL, PHYSICAL, AND MENTAL ABUSE THAT THOSE PRIESTS DID TO ME IN THIS LETTER. I THINK YOU ARE A GOOD AND HOLY MAN AND DON'T WANT YOU TO HAVE TO HEAR ALL THE DETAILS. PLEASE HAVE SOMEONE CONTACT ME SO WE CAN WORK THRU THIS SITUATION.

I WOULD PREFER TO KEEP THIS JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES AND WITHOUT LAWYERS AND THE PUBLIC INVOLVED, BUT I NOW REALIZE THAT IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT I CAN KEEP INSIDE AND HIDE ANYMORE. I HAVE CAUSED MUCH DAMAGE TO MYSELF AND OTHERS AROUND ME BECAUSE OF THE RAGE AND DEPRESSION I HAVE HAD FOR SO MANY YEARS.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I'M NOT LOOKING TO GET RICH OR TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION, BUT I DO NEED HELP WITH COUNSELING, HEALTH CARE , MEDICATIONS AND TRYING TO PROVIDE FOR MY FAMILY.

SINCERELY

FM 0035