



Rev. Daniel C. Clark

Sacred Heart Retreat
1924 Newburg Rd., Louisville, KY 40205-1498

27-Apr-92

The Most Rev. Thomas C. Kelly, CP
Archbishop of Louisville
P.O. Box 1073
212 East College Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40201

Dear Archbishop,

Greetings! I met with Joe Stoltz and my brothers as I mentioned in our phone conversation May 1st. I feel it is my responsibility to write and give you feedback in regards to my continued concerns. I also wish to express my appreciation of your continued support, concern and affirmation - thank you - again!

On a personal note, you may not be aware that I am still in the court mandated offender treatment program which has been very lengthy and intense; we meet weekly. I have learned a great deal from the experience and will be completing it soon although there is no time limit. This is in addition to my work with O'Connor and my other programs and activities. When you called concerning this new group I thought it might be a bit much. However, after meeting with the brothers, I do see some benefits such a group might provide priests if the group does not take the place of therapy and twelve step meetings. As with any addiction, but especially with sexual addiction, an addict may desire to, but ought not, isolate themselves from the recovering community. I'm sure the Priest Health Board understands doing so creates a sense of "specialness" which is very counter-productive. It is my own opinion that every priest who is sexually compulsive/addicted ought to be in a twelve step program and involved in long term therapy that can be monitored by his Bishop, Religious Superior, or delegated person. I say long term therapy because the pathology of the disease is so complex.

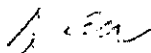
In meeting with Dr. O'Connor a few days ago and mentioning this new support group, it appears we share very strongly the same viewpoints on the issue of what is urgently needed. We already have good treatment centers and support groups available for the addicted. Those have been in place for quite some time. What we do not have is a prevention program. I have preached this for quite some time to the Priest Health Board and everyone who would listen. Priests do not like to hear it but we are

naive in the realm of sexual abuse and confrontation. Priests do not know what to do if an alleged victim or victim-of-years-past should call them on the phone confronting them (with the police secretly monitoring and telling them what to say) in order to get an admission of guilt. (This method has become the norm for police departments across the country.) Nor do they know how to handle a sexual harassment charge (be it true or false) not to mention an attempt at extortion.

I have been in the recovering community for nine years now and hear much of what is going on in our own Diocese and in others. Without doubt we still remain very, very vulnerable. I shared my frustration with Dr. O'Connor in that I was not consulted in the formulation of this new group so that I could address this issue of prevention for the addicted in regards to relapse or re-offending and those who have not come forward who are sexually acting out. My concern also includes potential victims. I still believe priests need a safe confidant to come to if they are in trouble or are a potential danger to the community and church. I feel I am in a position and certainly has had the experience and training to be that minister or consultant. I am well aware that I make some of my brothers very uncomfortable when I am in their presence and, perhaps, I am still an embarrassment to others. I strongly believe there is a valid ministry in being an embarrassment and making some of my brothers very uncomfortable! Bob O'Connor, John Maloney, and others have urged me to become more active in speaking out on this matter of prevention. He shared that he and John Ford have been working together on the same issue. I will, once again, approach the Priest Health Board on this subject.

Archbishop, I hope you know me well enough to understand that I am not trying to blow-my-own-horn! I receive plenty of affirmation for my work in sexual compulsivity/addiction from the private sector and members of the addiction Council. I love my priesthood very much and especially wish to save brothers from the grief I have experienced. Frankly speaking, I also want to spare the church from what I foresee as pending financial mayhem. I understand it's going to take continued work on my part to be seen as part of the solution rather than a potential problem. My time of sobriety and celibacy, by the grace of God, ought to be seen as an example that, although there is no cure, there is a program of healing and recovery that does work.

Fraternally,



Rev. Daniel C. Clark