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November 7, 1996

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Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
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P. O. Box 07912
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CONFIDENTIAL

Re: Father Lawrence C. Murphy

Dear Archbishop Weakland:

I am writing on behalf of my clients, [REDACTED]. These men were enrolled at St. John's School for the Deaf during the years when Father Lawrence C. Murphy served as the director of the school.

As you are aware, a number of young deaf boys, including my clients, suffered continuing child sexual abuse at the hands of Father Murphy over many years. Although he has been forbidden from ministry and contact with the deaf, he has never been compelled to pay for his heinous crimes.

Psychological and emotional harm in both the short and the long term exists as a result of child sexual abuse. Adults who were sexually abused as children report a variety of effects, including sexual dysfunction, negative self-image, depression, interpersonal difficulties and re-victimization. Common psychological consequences of child sexual abuse have been conceptualized as traumatic sexualization, betrayal, powerlessness and stigmatization.

My clients feel that the Archdiocese has a responsibility to right a terrible wrong. They seek compensation for the innocence that was taken from them. After their initial cries for help were condemned as unfounded, this type of settlement will serve as a meaningful acknowledgement of their suffering and of Father Murphy's gross impropriety. Please call me at your earliest convenience after you have had a chance to consider a resolution of these three cases.

Very truly yours,

PHILLIPS, DONOHUE & CYMERMAN, S.C.

Barry M. Cymerman

cc:

12a/bsmc/weakland 11-7-96

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