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September 6, 2002

Frs. William Lynn and Jerome Bracken,

I would like to introduce myself; I am [redacted] mother of John and James. You may remember John as he attended St. Charles in the mid 80's. I am writing this letter to remind you of how destructive Fr. Edward V. Avery's behavior was to my family ultimately all but destroying everything my husband and I had devoted our lives to building. We loved all our children and worked tirelessly to provide them with what we felt were the essentials including a Catholic education. We were very happy when our son James was named captain of the alter boys at our church in grade school. We were unaware of what happened on trips to the shore taken by the alter boys where our son and his friends were given beer, gotten drunk and abused in some cases. One Sunday Fr. Avery was saying mass and that Wednesday he was gone, transferred for some unknown reason. We were all sad as he knew all of us by name and was very positive especially with our children.

Fr. occasionally would call for James asking him for help with his D.J. projects. We urged James to help thinking he was contributing. We would get him to the train, as he was too young to drive. I became aware of a problem when Fr. Ed invited James to go skiing for the weekend and James came home early, I asked him what was the matter and he told me of the sexual abuse problem. I told him to get in touch with the cardinal's office but he was very embarrassed and ashamed.

As you know years passed and John went to St. Charles. My husband and I were very surprised. He had done very well scholastically, but there were some other issues. Fr. Bracken, John's spiritual director, advised him to see Ms. [redacted] psychologist from Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. Ms. [redacted] "investigated" our family for 1 1/2 years before we were told. She isolated our son from his "toxic family" and sent him to live in a parish rectory where it was safe. While there he cooked with a blowtorch and was robbed more than once. Shortly after my husband's death, he came to me demanding \$20,000, which he claimed, was my part of his therapy bill. It broke my heart to know that he was in such a bad state. By this time he had done as she told him and told off all of his friends. She provided a support group of her patients.

I neglected to explain that when she isolated us from our son, it was near Christmas 1990. John never came home for Christmas. My husband was heart broken. HE was a daily communicant and went to mass no matter where he was, Israel, Taiwan etc. Before he went to bed he explained that "we would have to do without the boys as they were to have nothing more to do with us compliments [redacted] as John explained to me she was the expert with the PHD" (By the way she had us go to a family counselor Dr. James Yanopolis who told us there was no problem with the family.) At 3AM I found my husband dead on the floor I did CPR but couldn't get a pulse. I am a pediatric nurse and had training for years in CPR. The Coroner did a complete autopsy on John and found no

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cause of death. I was left to rear our last two boys one who was graduating from grade school, the other from St. Pius X H S. After my husband's death the income went to 1/4 I had to do more time at the hospital. I had to get [REDACTED] through parochial H S and both of them through college. It was difficult.

My six children felt disillusioned. Eventually John started to selectively contact his siblings and warn them of the "toxic mom" who he was led to believe caused all the problems. I have every reason to believe that John was also victimized by the aforementioned priest as he mentioned an incident where during school he and a friend were with this priest in the rectory and after being offered hard liquor the other boy was approached. Most of my children left the area to get away from the scandal. Hong Kong, Texas etc John is in Philadelphia but has no relationship with me. It has been hard to justify the poor judgment my church has shown and continue to encourage my children to be good Catholics. My church has been very costly to my family.

I hope you have been farsighted enough to make sure hasn't molested any other children. I am sure we weren't alone, as a pediatric nurse I must wonder who else was molested? I trust that you will take what I have disclosed seriously as. If he is anywhere near children you have a problem. Efforts to hide his unsocial behavior still are causing problems to my family today.

You will be meeting with my son James next week.

Sincerely
[REDACTED]

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