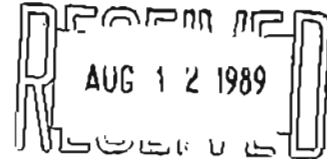


August 6, 1989

Bishop Sklba  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
3501 South Lake Drive  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Dear Bishop Sklba;


A few weeks ago I contacted Mary Kay Balchunas in response to hearing of Project Benjamin. I was not then, and I am not now looking for referral. I am seeking answers to many questions which she was not prepared to answer, therefore she suggested I contact you.

I am an adult survivor of child sexual abuse. When I was ten years old I was sexually abused by a priest at our parish. I attended a Catholic grade school and was in constant contact with this priest. The abuse occurred daily over a period of weeks. To my child's eye this man could do no wrong. He used his powerful position to satisfy his sexual needs. It took me many years to realize that what he did was indeed wrong.

The abuse ended when the nun who was the principle of the school called me into her office and severely reprimanded me for spending time with Father. She told me to stay away from him. This firmly cemented in me the feeling that I was a bad girl - I had done something wrong - it was my fault.

The priest disappeared shortly after I was reprimanded. He was sent to another parish to continue his life and I was sentenced to a life in purgatory. He and the church's reputation were protected by the very church that I believed would always protect me and keep me safe. I never said anything to anyone - until recently. My parents never knew. I lived alone with my shame and guilt. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I was a bad girl and not worthy of the church. Besides, the church had already turned its back on me. There was no one I could go to with my secret. I had no outlet. I was alone. I turned all the pain inward, and to relieve that pain [REDACTED]



I need to know what, if anything, was done to rehabilitate the priest. I need to know why the church abandoned me. I need to know if the church can sincerely commit to helping me now. I also need to speak with the priest who abused me and the nun who reprimanded me. I don't need help finding them. I have already done that. I do need to know if you will help me convince them to meet with me.

I cannot at this time feel safe enough to reveal details, my full name or the names of the priest and the nun. I sincerely hope this will not keep you from taking me seriously and responding. Before I can discuss the details with you, I'll need to know where you and the church stand on the issue of sexual abuse perpetrated by a member of the clergy. It is also important for me to know that children will be protected from abuse from the clergy in the future. When I heard about Project Benjamin I was filled with hope, but I need to know that the gesture is sincere. Please don't let the church turn its back on me again. Will you - can you - help me? I will anxiously await your reply.

Sincerely,

