

*Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
Quincy, Massachusetts*

February 1, 2002

Most Reverend Richard J. Malone
Office of the Regional Bishop
236 Pleasant Street
Weymouth, MA 02190-2509

Dear Bishop Malone:

In October of 2001 I was on vacation. Father Tom Forry was sent by Clergy Personnel to cover the Parish as I was away. Upon my arrival home, Deacon John Menz alerted me to a situation that had arisen while I was away. It seems that a family from our Parish, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] had attended our 10:00 am Sunday Liturgy and upon realizing that Father Forry was covering for me, got very upset. Mrs. [REDACTED] met with Deacon Menz and informed him that her husband, [REDACTED], and her sister-in-law allege that Father Forry, who had been a close family friend, had molested them during their childhood. Deacon Menz immediately called Father Charles Higgins at Chancery to inform him of these allegations. According to Deacon Menz, Father Higgins asked Deacon Menz to have the [REDACTED] contact himself.

While I was stationed in East Boston, I had dealt with one other situation of the same nature. I followed the same steps that Deacon Menz initiated and never heard from any persons involving the outcome of the case. Feeling that this situation would follow the same course, neither Deacon Menz nor myself inquired any further at that point in time as to the [REDACTED] situation. The [REDACTED] have continued to attend Mass since then and in greeting them before or after Mass I have asked in a general manner how they were. They have responded that they were fine and never pursued with either of us the situation with Father Forry. I felt that they might desire as much anonymity as possible, given the nature of the situation. At the same time, I have felt somewhat unsettled in that neither Deacon Menz nor myself had any further knowledge as to whether how the situation was being addressed.

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After our convocation last week, I asked Deacon Menz to re-contact the [REDACTED] family. I asked him to do this so that we could be sure that contact between the [REDACTED] family and the Archdiocese had been made. I asked him to do this rather than doing it myself as he was the initial contact that they had made and wanted to spare them any further embarrassment in having to talk to another person about the situation. This evening Deacon Menz was able to speak with [REDACTED] (Mrs. [REDACTED]). She informed him that her husband and herself were very happy with the Parish and the manner that Deacon Menz has handled the situation. She also informed him that her sister-in-law is still having a very hard time dealing with the situation. Mrs. [REDACTED] told Deacon Menz that as a result of what has come to light over the past few weeks with regards to our handling of the sexual abuse of minors, her sister-in-law does not feel comfortable speaking directly with the Archdiocese. Mrs. [REDACTED] informed Deacon Menz that her sister-in-law has obtained legal counsel and plans to pursue the issue further.

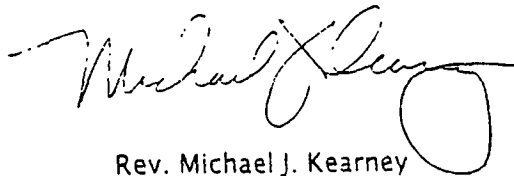
I called Mrs. [REDACTED] this morning and spoke with her personally. She informed me that she and her husband did receive a letter from Father [REDACTED] but has not responded directly to the Archdiocese. I invited her to keep any lines of communication with Deacon Menz or myself open and told her that I would be writing this letter to you. She seemed very grateful.

I am writing to you to make you aware of the situation and to ask if there is anything further either I or Deacon Menz should do to assist the [REDACTED] and the Archdiocese in this matter. If you have any advise or if there is any further action we should take, please call me.

Please find enclosed copies of letter Deacon Menz sent to both Mrs. [REDACTED] and Father Charles Higgins regarding the incident.

Thanks for your assistance in this matter and may God grace us all with the strength and wisdom to help all of us during this very sad time.

Sincerely,



Rev. Michael J. Kearney

enc.

cc Deacon John Menz

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