

*returned call
offered her to
contact me
for assistance*

Emilie House
686 Elm Street
West Springfield, MA 01089

January 28, 2002

774-3111

Cardinal Bernard Law
2101 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02135-3192

Dear Cardinal Law:

It is out of a personal sense of obligation that I am writing to make you aware of the fact that I have been informed by a credible young man that he was abused sexually as a minor by Rev. Paul J. Finegan, a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston.

The young man of whom I speak neither wants to come forth publicly or press legal charges or negotiate financial settlements.

I have reflected for some time on my personal obligation regarding this matter before writing to you. Having absolutely no doubt whatever regarding the truth of the young man's claim and being fully cognizant of the progressive pattern of pedophilia, I am deeply concerned that Fr. Finegan may still be sexually abusing children.

This issue of pedophilia within the Church deeply saddens me – not so much that it exists tragic as this is, but our own seeming inability to “take the bull by the horns” and respond promptly with appropriate action.

It is my request that you look into this matter as soon as possible in order to prevent further significant harm to additional victims within our beloved Catholic Church.

Please feel free to share this letter with Fr Paul Finegan. Also, if I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at the above address or by phone at: (413) 748-9453 – work or (413) 732-9311 – home.

Sincerely and gratefully in Christ,

Sister Madeleine Joy S.P.
Sister Madeleine Joy S.P.