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Ans'd

9-25-86

Bishop Steimbach

I am [redacted] mother
of [redacted], Fr. Chris Anderson's
[redacted] molestation victim.

Not much to say after cover-up
and white wash has come out,
locally and nation wide, about
priest pedophilia, except disbelief
and disillusionment with my Church
and hierarchy. We as Catholics have
been indoctrinated, since childhood,
to believe in and trust with
blind faith, our priests, bishops,
and hierarchy. That they had more
insight and were more spiritually
evolved to handle situations in
the church, and to find out they
are a group of hypocrites that
acted in a manner in which
none of us can be proud. We
are to take leadership from these
spiritually deficient shepherds (like
sheep to the slaughter) and in not
taking responsibility for our own
decisions and leaving it up to
someone whom we can ultimately
place the blame and take no
responsibility for ourselves. 51000569

It is hard to believe that
our spiritual leaders would
knowingly sacrifice the lives
of innocent children, for their

pride and cowardice to face the gravity of this situation and to somehow think it would go away.

The action taken by our spiritual leaders is totally against all of the truths, strength, commitment, and courage to do what is right, that Jesus taught us, and in taking a less than up front, honest and courageous approach to this serious problem. It has undermined and shaken the very foundation of our faith and trust in the Catholic Church and its leadership.

Thank God there are spiritual leaders like Fr. Thomas Doyle, a canon lawyer, who is calling this problem to the attention of all of us. He has the strength to deal with this problem. First, to admit that there is one and not pretend there isn't, and deal with it honestly and attempt some spiritual reconciliation with the victims and their families. Needless to say, this was not the path our self-righteous leaders chose to take.

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It was really sad to see

the conditions of the Church, St. Bonaventure, deteriorate so rapidly after Fr. Mike Hurb. and Fr. Chris Smith were transferred.

They are truly men who stand for the truths of the Church and are men who let the Holy Spirit work through them and not the man standing in front of the Spirit, not letting it pour forth, instead being filled with pride, sense of self and power to dictate their feelings and views and not that of the Holy Spirit.

It was like the lights went out and the Spirit was chased away, and the Church brought down to the basic survival instincts of narrow minded self serving leaders who are more preoccupied with administering and dictating rules and regulations and insulting themselves by putting distance between themselves and the people, instead of walking among them and lovingly feeding and bringing out the Spirit to work among us.

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To see all the years of Fr. Mike's and later Fr. Chris Smith's

Compassion, understanding,
love, spiritual guidance, and
endless dedication to teaching
the truths of the risen Christ
undermined and totally squelched
in such a short time. The
whole feeling, and atmosphere
of the Church was changed from
an uplifting and loving, sharing
experience to a building that
is cold, unfeeling and unconcerned
with the true teachings of Jesus
Christ, and more preoccupied with
power and politics.

What a difference it makes
having a chosen leader than
one who chooses to lead, which
seems to be few and far
between.

As for a solution to this,
I think it is time for some
serious self examination by
Church leaders. Maybe with
closer self examination of self
and by clergy we can eliminate
the truly unqualified priest,
for what ever reason, family,
prestige, power, ego, they are
hiding behind to gain the
confidence, trust and devotion
of people, only to find out it
is too much to handle and

trying to keep up the facade and living a lie, that ultimately is undermining the Church with addictive behavior, alcoholism, homosexuals, pedophilia, adultery, abortions, and of trying to live a double life and when these things are brought to the attention of the Church taking action to remedy and not cover-up situations. Not just taking any warm body to fill a position, because there is no one else!

Ultimately, this attitude is bringing a growing cancer into our midst, just when it seemed the Catholic Church was starting to shed its image of power, deceit, corruption, scandal, and depravity of the dark ages.

Fr. Christian Anderson's molestation of my son [redacted] has sent rippling repercussions through our lives that can not be easily rectified. I feel my Church has let me down and has hidden its head in the sand. Common sense tells you if an allegation is made against these priests (nation wide) you at least remove them from working with children. It doesn't take a genius

to figure that out, and upon this insistence the answer I got from Msgr. Duff was "I'll keep a close eye on him". As to my son [redacted] his reply was, "We must all learn to bear our crosses." Why should, at the time, a [redacted] year old child learn to bear the cross and burden of a sick priest, so sick in fact, he can't even admit to himself he has molested these children and is so cunning and believable to someone who doesn't see through the theatrics, and facade, and deceit to convince them he is perfectly normal and given a clean bill of health by psychiatrists.

The emotional strain of seeing Fr. Chris up on the altar, serving Mass and nothing being done, not even his association with altar boys curtailed, was more than we could handle. We left the church feeling we were the ones being persecuted, not the guilty one. How many more innocent children does he have to molest before something is done about this sick man! So sick that

he won't even admit guilt now and intends to do more emotional damage to these innocent children than has, needlessly, all ready been done by dragging them through a court battle. I don't know how he can face himself, except to say, he has deceived himself as well as others at the risk of our children. I naively thought, who safer could my child be with, than a priest!

I have been hoping that Fr. Chris would have at least a grain of conscience left and would admit his guilt, avoiding more emotional strain on all families involved.

How many more children have to be victimized before this horror story ends? It is still hard for me to believe that this cover up has been going on for so many years, as in Bishop Frey and Monsignor La Brock and the Lafayette, La. Diocese. It is totally appalling and disgusting that these, so called, leaders dismissed the problem. And in doing so, these so called leaders, actually

perpetuated, more and more victims because of their calloused, unconcern, and cowardice.

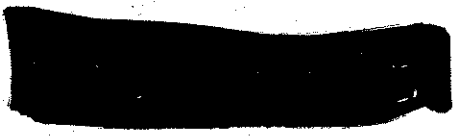
Listening to La Brock's statements, on nation wide T.V. was so sickening and utterly ridiculous. It would have been better for the Church's credibility, not to have been represented at all than to have this pitiful excuse for a priest be interviewed and show further hypocrisy and total disregard and concern over this grave matter. How in the name of God could Frey and La Brock knowingly put these priests in charge of altar boys and boy scouts, after admitted molestations dating back 10 years! Fr. Sauter has to date victimized 37 boys.

In the words of one of the parents, "We've been had by the Catholic Church." What a price for our children to have to pay. I'll never forget my son, repeating over and over, "and Mom he's a priest!!"

Since no one has tried to contact us from our own parish or the dioceses, again showing no compassion or

V.

Concern, I am writing this letter in hopes that if this situation ever comes to the attention of the church and or diocese again, you will take a more sensitive and humane approach than you have to date.



c.c.
Bishop John Steinbock
Msgr. Riscoe
Msgr. Duffy
District Attorney

Called the Church's biggest problem

MORRISTOWN, N.J. — Sexual molestation of children by Catholic clergy is the Church's most serious problem "in centuries" and has far-reaching consequences, said Dominican Father Thomas P. Doyle, a canon lawyer.

The Church has a deep obligation to the laity to look into the problem of priests afflicted by such a disorder, known as pedophilia, he added.

Father Doyle, from the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, spoke, Apr. 29, during the annual eastern regional conference of the Canon Law Society of America, held in Morris-

town. Other speakers at the seminar were Dr. Steven Montana, clinical psychologist at St. Luke Institute Inc. in Suitland, Md., and F. Ray Mouton, a Louisiana attorney who defended Father Gilbert Gauthier, a priest in the Lafayette, La. Diocese, who was sentenced last October to 20 years of hard labor without parole on sex charges.

The priest, suspended by the diocese in 1983, pleaded guilty to more than 30 crimes of child pornography and sexual abuse of children.

Father Doyle said such cases could cost the Church massive monetary settlements paid to victims and their families, the failing of priests, the possible suicide to priests, suicide of victims, the prosecution of bishops

for criminal negligence, and a nationwide class action suit against the Church for billions of dollars.

Father Doyle said only a "miniscule" number of priests are afflicted with pedophilia, but the public perception of the problem makes it "extremely difficult" for priests to do their work properly.

Mouton said dioceses must deal with the problem honestly, not develop a siege mentality or hope the problem will just go away.

"If we don't act now, the consequences will be catastrophic," Mouton said. "If kids are left untreated, you have a time bomb walking in your community."

He said Bishop Gerard L. Frey of Lafayette had known about Father Gauthier's problem since 1982 but kept it quiet and sent Father Gauthier to psychiatrists who knew nothing about pedophilia.

Bishop Frey has said he made the "mistake" of "not being able to recognize the depth of (Father Gauthier's) illness" earlier because the priest "skillfully masked his condition." The bishop has called charges of "cover-up" "irresponsible."

Last February a jury awarded \$1 million to one of the victims, an 11-year-old boy, and awarded \$250,000 to his parents. The diocese has reportedly settled out of court with 13 other families.

Mouton outlined a six-step procedure dioceses should follow if the problem arises:

- Attempt spiritual reconciliation with the victims and their families.
- Review the pertinent canon law.
- Get good civil and criminal law advice.
- Send the accused priest to Dr. Montana for psychiatric help. (Mouton said he considers Montana the best in the country.)
- Tell the parish community the truth.
- Deal with the public and the media truthfully, openly and honestly.

Montana, discussing the clinical aspects of pedophilia, said almost nothing is known about the causes but that there is a high incidence of pedophiles who are molested when they were wrong.

He said pedophiles also may have had a non-sexual trauma — like a death in the family or a divorce — during their childhood.

Montana said prison is not an effective deterrent to pedophiles and that psychiatric treatment has better success, as well as a drug called Depo-Provera, which lowers sex drive and has no side effects.

Andy Rodriguez
NC News

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