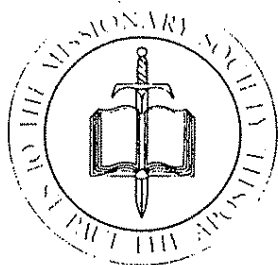


The Paulist Fathers



86 Doremore Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583 (914) 472-4800

June 26, 1989

Mr. K [REDACTED] A [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Canada

Dear Mr. A [REDACTED]

Since our telephone conversation I have given your proposals a good deal of thought. As I understand them, you have two purposes in mind. One of them is to heighten the awareness of people generally about the existence of this aberration and ways in which it can occur. The other is to encourage some particular victims to come forward for mutual support and whatever other kinds of help might be needed in individual cases. These are good and positive responses to an aberration that is both personally and socially traumatic, and I believe some version of them is becoming standard practice. It cannot have been easy for you to take the initiative in this matter after all these years, and please be assured that we are ready to assist you with whatever pastoral or professional help from which you might benefit.

I have been in conversation with Fr. Leinert about the Archbishop's plans to issue a pastoral letter on the whole subject of abuse. I believe he has shared this with you, and it seems to me that this will be a very effective way of educating the public. It will be publicized in every parish, also in the diocesan paper, and I understand that there will be a specific press release along with the text to the secular media. It seems to me that this kind of publicity should do a good job toward the sort of public education you urge. Certainly, it will reach far beyond anything we might do in St. Philip's parish.

About that, I mentioned the real reservations I have about opening up events of years ago. This will surely foster all kinds of local speculation, rumor, and gossip, mostly negative. Any constructive results are much less clear. I think the Archbishop's letter better serves the education need, and at the same time invites persons like yourself, wherever they are, to come forward with any personal needs they may have. In presenting the pastoral letter at St. Philip's we can, of course, encourage any of our parishioners so affected to take advantage of the invitation and such help.

Mr. K. A.

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I have consulted two psychiatrists about the benefits of approaching victims after so many years. Both were cautious about such a move. They thought it could be helpful in some cases, and harmful in others. They were supportive of a general invitation that left individuals with the option to respond or not. This way the possibilities of further harm are avoided and a way toward help laid open without directly involving any particular person other than by his own choice. I think this is probably the wisest course after so many years, and I am inclined to follow it. I'd rather have the medical people make arrangements for group interaction in individual cases as people respond. I'm told the Archbishop's pastoral should be out within a month or two, so for the moment, why don't we leave it at that and be guided by what follows upon its publication?

I value your concern for others in all of this and I share in it. Indeed, if it weren't for the time element, I would be wholeheartedly supportive. I do think some good results will come from your initiative, certainly in the area of public education, and probably more personally for some individual victims. That will be a real contribution by you. It will not, of course, undo the personal scars you carry, and should you want any help in attending to them, please let me know. I shall continue to follow up on all aspects of this troubling matter.

Faithfully in the Lord,

Joseph V. Gallagher CSP
Joseph V. Gallagher, CSP

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Fr. Perone