



ARCHDIOCESE  
OF PORTLAND  
IN OREGON

Office of the Archbishop

July 22, 2009

Judge Elizabeth L. Parris  
United States Bankruptcy Court  
District of Oregon  
1001 SW Fifth Avenue #700  
Portland, OR 97204

CLERK, U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
DISTRICT OF OREGON

JUL 29 2009

LODGED \_\_\_\_\_ REC'D \_\_\_\_\_  
PAID \_\_\_\_\_ DOCKETED \_\_\_\_\_

Your Honor:

For the past five years the Archdiocese of Portland has consumed much of your time and energy. With your recent ruling on the document disclosure matter, perhaps this chapter of your judicial service may be drawing to a close. We both hope so.

The enclosed letter may be of some interest to you. It certainly enlightened me about the underlying cause for separate consideration with respect to the promise I made to disclose all appropriate and relevant materials at the end of the bankruptcy. Perhaps you were already aware of the involvement in this matter of others not directly connected to the issues at hand. I was not, but I am not surprised.

Once the documents are released I imagine there will be another opportunity for a public scolding of the archdiocese and a continued unwillingness to acknowledge all the steps we are taking to make amends for the past and to protect children today and tomorrow. I do hope that you at least are aware of the fact that we Catholic people have learned our lesson and we only hope that others, including those representing public institutions, will follow our lead and come to grips with the demands of justice, as the law has required of us. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

*+ John G. Vlazonis*

Most Rev. John G. Vlazonis  
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon

JGV/rj  
enclosure

July 14, 2009

Dear Archbishop Vlazny

Once again, we find ourselves begging you to honor promises you made to all Catholics at Dallas in 2002. You promised openness and transparency. You promised that the protection of the innocent and the

vulnerable would come first. And you promised you would reach out to those who had been so severely wounded by members of the clergy.

Once again, you have been given a chance to practice what you preach. The court has ruled that the public has a right to view documents from clergy sex abuse cases. We simply ask that you honor this ruling, and

Resist the short-sighted and selfish temptation to appeal this decision.

We ask that you end years of legal wrangling that delay the healing of the deeply wounded adults, that jeopardizes the safety of vulnerable children, and that keeps the truth hidden from public view.

Exploiting your flock's generosity, you have paid lawyers tens of thousands of dollars to drag out this already arduous process, so you can save the reputations of corrupt colleagues, instead of healing the wounds of

victims and helping to educate Catholics.

Some Catholics know the identities of some of the proven, admitted and credibly accused molesters who have worked in your archdiocese. Virtually no Catholic, however, knows the identities of all of the proven, admitted and credibly accused molesters who have worked in your archdiocese. And virtually no Catholic knows the identities of the other church employees – both clerics and lay people – who knew or suspected

Children were being molested yet stayed silent. This is the information, as you well know, that is in those files. This is the information that makes kids safer. This is the information that the public needs. This is the

information that your flock deserves.

Bishops all across the country continue to fight tooth and nail to protect their sex abuse secrets. But openness, not secrecy, is what protects kids and heals victims. And openness is what church officials promised

seven years ago in Dallas. Sadly, most bishops don't just ignore this pledge; they actively contradict it.

Your archdiocese has already been rocked by scandals. You have faced more than 175 clergy sex abuse cases. You continue to reassure your parishioners that all scandal is in the past. If your statements are true

then you have nothing to hide.

Jesus taught us that the truth shall set you free. Please stop your expensive legal stonewalling maneuvers and let the truth about sex crimes and cover ups by priests and bishops be revealed.

In public addresses, the Pope has said "it is important to establish the truth of what happened" regarding clergy sex crimes and that Catholics should "do everything possible" to heal the wounds caused by pedophile

priests. Continued secrecy, legal hairsplitting and delays, SNAP believes, contradict the Pope's stated wishes.

Oregon kids will be safer and Catholics will be reassured if you stop exploiting every legal technicality and maneuver your lawyers can dream up, and start acting like a compassionate shepherd instead of a

cold-hearted CEO, and let the truth emerge.

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