

REDACTED

13th February 1994

Dear Bishop Brian

I appreciate very much you giving me your time last Thursday, especially under the circumstances. I couldn't believe the timing of my appointment and must admit I wondered at what the good Lord was doing. When I left you I felt that the timing was perfect.

I know that deep inside I still have a hurt angry child who is suffering deep scars and pain, but hopefully I am getting on top of everything. The more I study and read on this subject I know that it is an addiction - a sickness, and not an evil sinful man who takes advantage of children. I have to believe that the Priest or Brother has no control over his actions just like a drug addict or an alcoholic. Yes, they need love and support and of course understanding not just condemnation.

As for the "victim" (I hate that word) they too need love and understanding and above all need to be believed. There has to be a place where they can tell their story and not feel victimized again. I have no time for organizations like "Broken Rites" because I feel too many people are hurt with mass hysteria. A place where they can feel safe and explore their shame and grief must be better for all concerned.

It takes such a long time to be able to LET GO and to SURRENDER it all to the Lord. I know I am getting better at this but I have an awfully long way to go. As I told you, it is not so much as what happened years ago but what is happening in the present moment. The memory is triggered so easily by a certain touch, smell, word, car, hymn or place. When I am at home with my parents the resentments come to the fore and when I leave I am full of remorse because I didn't try harder.

I find it confusing to try and really live the Serenity Prayer as last Thursday I didn't know whether God was asking me to change the things I can. There were certainly lots of opportunities to be open with my parents but on the other hand I had to leave the next day and they wouldn't have had anyone to help them with the extra burden of grief. Besides, who would it benefit by telling them. I also believe that if the same priest is involved in this latest incident they will have enough to deal with then. If this is the case I know that it would kill my father as he wouldn't and couldn't be as understanding as his daughter is with REDA. He would find forgiveness an impossible task.

As I told you I didn't know why I wanted to see you but just felt a need to. As I sat in quiet prayer in the Cathedral before I went to see you I was able to surrender it all to the Lord. I just asked Him to guide me in what I said and the rest was up to Him.

May I say that I found you to be a very caring gentle person and one who is very Christ like. I felt very much at ease with you and from my point of view it was worthwhile for me to have spent that time with you. I thank you for your apology on behalf of your brother. I know you cannot change the past but your understanding has eased my present.

I will pray for you in the coming months as this investigation takes place and I will also pray for all those concerned. It is a learning experience for everyone and with each new personal experience there is new growth so I will pray that each person involved will be touched in a very special way.

You were a real inspiration to me and I thank you for this.

There is no need to reply to this as I know how busy you are. All I ask is that you remember to pray for me.

May His Peace and Love be in your heart always.

Yours sincerely

AYB