Dear Archbishop Hickey,

I am writing this letter because I am disillusioned, saddened, and disappointed about the way our family has been treated. When we came to see you recently, you said the matter had nothing to do with the Catholic Church. It still feels it has to a certain extent. Father Jim O'Brien advised me to organise for us to go to Castledare. I feel therefore, the Catholic Church would in part be responsible for making sure the child would be brought up in a good Christian environment. And as you know, that didn't happen.

I talked to a priest recently about the boys, but he couldn't cope with it. He said it was the first time anyone had spoken to him about the matter. Talking about "blessing" my marriage was the only topic on his mind. In the very short conversation regarding the boys, he said "anyway there were only a few Brothers involved." I told him I was not interested in the few Brothers, but I was interested in the welfare of our boys. Like so many
other people who want to “sweep it under the carpet.” These people don't know or don't want to know the effect such abuse has on victims and their family, and it is never ending just goes on day in day out.

The priest's last comment was “Did you know it was going on?”

Several didn't tell us for years. Little wonder after reporting the abuse to the head brother along with another boy. One of them got a clip over the ear and was told to go back to bed and stop talking such filth. I'm surprised they were even able to tell us about it.

Voices whom I thought all along had the boys welfare at heart, let us down badly. Bruce Blyth did admit to receiving the registration forms, but said they must have got lost in the system.” Too bad he said. And doesn't want to know anymore about it. But he willingly took the donations.

All we ever wanted was that our boys be treated in the same way as the two or three hundred other men who sent registration forms in. We are certainly getting the run around, and it is most unfair, people our age having to fight for justice. No one seems to care, in fact I feel everyone is
acting against us, as if we were asking
for something different to the other victim.

Since our visit to you on 5th
December, we went along together with
Mrs. CBEKS, who referred us to the
Institutions Reconciliation Trust. I then
received a letter from them saying: "I
suggest that a letter be sent to Mr.
Stephens of Slater & Gordon advising him
why your sons did not previously
query their inclusion as plaintiffs."

I can't see why I should write
again... when I still have not received
a reply to the letter I sent to Slater
& Gordon on 16th Oct. 1996 by registered
mail.

also phoned Slater & Gordon
at the request of UAI TR. The person he
was told to speak to was out.

He left a message, but the call was not
returned.

It just seems the Catholic Bishops
and other Christian Brothers are hell bent
on continuing to treat us with
disdain. It doesn't seem right that
we should be writing letters,
phoning up & having interviews. As
I've said before, Voices admitted
receiving the registration forms, so
why should we be penalised
because they "got lost in the system."

We don't know who to turn
to now. But I guess we will think
of something soon.

Yours Sincerely,