

C. Walsh

REDACTED

April 18, 2008

The Pope

Benedict XVI

00120 Via del Pellegrino

Citta del Vaticano

Copy to:-

The Archbishop of Perth.

The Christian Brothers Provinciate

It seems you have just been to the United States of America. While you were there you apologized for the child abuse inflicted by priests and perhaps brothers.

I believe this was a hollow apology and made under sufferance because the same abuses happened here in Western Australia and the church spent millions of dollars on a bank of lawyers and Q.C.s to ensure the cases of abuse never went to court. This was quite ironic because it was basically proven that these abuses happened and an apology was forthcoming from the head of the Christian Brothers and the archbishop.

The reason the abuse cases never went to court, is the fact, Western Australia has a statute of limitations of Six Years – this is ludicrous because those of us who did speak up were not believed and others were too afraid. I don't know how you were brought up or what fears you faced as a child. But our fears were very real and justified. To even speak ill of any brother was to invite an immediate whack across the face. To talk back to a brother was to invite the harshest penalty of the strap or caning. In the worst cases we were just punched and kicked. With little or no regard to where we were kicked or punched. On a number of occasions I had the wind driven out of me by a punch to the stomach and even copped a couple more while I was struggling for my breath on the floor.

It wasn't until many years later that all the abuses came out into the open and the public had to be astounded by the horrific nature of the stories when the truth was finally aired. But the Christian brothers said that there was not a lot of cases of sexual abuse maybe only 3 or 4 (at this point I would like to point out – 1 is too many) but they soon had to face the stark reality that there were far more than the 3 or 4, they tried to white wash the public with. Now they were forced to keep it out of the courts because had these cases of sexual abuse gone to court It would have opened a Pandora's Box of horrific cases that would have tied up the courts for years. All the while peoples faith in the Catholic Church diminishing, the longer it went.

Anyway you got away with it, but the person you believe in once said 'But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.'

Well we believed and we were caused to sin so I hope there are some bloody big millstones in the next life.

Your Truly

*Cliff Walsh*