

June 18, 2009

Dear Assemblyperson,

My name is Pete Saracino. I live in upstate New York (Brian Kolb's district).

I was abused as a young boy by a Capuchin priest. The man is currently in parish ministry in Hackensack, N.J. Not a Catholic family in that parish is even aware of his past.....and the institutional church is not about to tell them either.

Hence, the church has knowingly placed many innocent children in harm's way. This is being done by an institution that should know better and care a good deal more.

It is both sad and outrageous.

And I trust that any of you with children or nieces or nephews or grand kids can relate.

Similar situations are, no doubt, playing themselves out across our state.....trusting Catholic families are being placed at the mercy of hidden sexual predators by an institution who clamors for their support, yet is unwilling to protect the very thing that matters most to these people – their precious children.

It is the ultimate attack on innocence and goodness.....and childhood.

Such deception is the antithesis of what "church" should be. It is an insult to Jesus and brings great dishonors His name. Worst of all, it shows a Face of God to the world that cares more about money than the lives of precious children. One could say it is the ultimate blasphemy.

I never thought the day would come when I would have to write a state legislator to ask him/her to protect kids and not sexual predators.....but it evidently has.

Please consider supporting the Markey bill.

It may take courage on your part.....and it may take faith – the true kind of faith that summons the courage to stand up to power (even a "religious" one) and say "I will stand for innocent children". "I will refuse to be part of an agenda that puts corporate assets ahead of the lives of God's innocent little ones."

It is my fervent wish that you will prayerfully consider my words. It is no small thing when a person in power such as yourselves, comes to a pivot point in their lives/careers when they are asked to make a profound moral decision. In my humble opinion, you each have come to that point.

Which will you choose?

Will it be a vote for children or a vote for assets?

Will it be a vote to stand for what is right and true, or a vote to stand with those who should, themselves, be fighting to protect the lives of children, but shamefully are doing otherwise?

Jesus said: "for this was I born; for this came I into the world.....to bear witness to the truth. Anyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Whose voice will you listen to? The institutional church who demands you protect its financial assets? Or the Voice of Him Who said "whatsoever you do to the LEAST of My brethren, you do to Me

In your quiet moments, please consider His words.

And please consider my words.

Please think of young kids everywhere and PLEASE consider sparing them the pain and agony I have had to endure.

Then listen to your own heart.

If you truly listen and are open to the truth, I suspect you will know what to do.

Thanks for listening.

Pete Saracino  
919 McIvor Rd.  
Phelps, NY 14532  
315-719-1230