

> From: ducharme <raymond-ducharme@cpost.plala.or.jp>

> Date: 23 December 2013 3:22 pm

> To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

> Subject: Re: a question

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> Dear Mr. [REDACTED],

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> Thank you for your message.

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> I have asked Br. Lawrence to write to you in order to answer your question: why did you rape me?

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> For the moment here, I will tell you my thoughts about the problems that you deal with in your message.

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> There are no excuses that stand in front of such an act as a sexual abuse. If we want to understand what happened then, we have to put ourselves in the shoes of Br. Lawrence and yours at that time. There, we are limited to what he recalls and what you recall about it. There is also a cluster of other matters involved here: sexual life, affective situation, past, personal psychology,.... So far, I think that we have dealt with the fact, the apologies, and the meeting.

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> Allow me to use an allegory, a comparison, to show you the way that I see this. I compare life to a thread enrolling on itself with the experiences that we make. That thread becomes a ball of thread (the ball of one's life). In your life story (your life ball) there is a bump built up by the actions of Br. Lawrence. There is a bump also in Br. Lawrence's ball. Through our meeting, we would like to remove the bump as much as we can.

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> I think that there is a potential abuser in every person. Some people deal well with that problem, others don't.

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> Concerning the training to celibacy, those days were very different than the period now. I could ask you, for instance, if you were trained to the conjugal life of today in your early age or not. I guess that your answer would be: "yes and no". I think it is very similar to what a Brother would answer for the training for his chastity. I will give you my experience on that topic while bearing in mind that Br. Lawrence is 19 years older than I am, and that his formation is quite different than the one I have, but I think that it could help to clarify the subject.

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> Chastity, for me, is a call. I was trained to serve the Lord and to be conscious of my affectivity and careful with it. I was trained to keep vigil on my eyes, my thoughts and my actions. Modesty is a virtue that I was trained to practice. However, I was not trained in the way to deal with the internet and, for instance, the Japanese pornography or the surge of passion in a man's life. I was advised about women, students or Brothers looking for tender affection. It was not perfect but sufficient to deal with my sexuality enough not to hurt people and to become a person whom I like to think as living a balanced affective life through a struggle that is

not always easy. I think that most of the Brothers could say the same thing about their chastity. I can tell you, concerning my vow of chastity, that I have never had sexual intercourses, and that I have never done actions leading to sexual intercourses; however, if one speaks of the virtue of chastity, which means a totally preferential love for the Lord, I cannot say that I have been perfect.

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> I think that the key to prevent abuse is the openness of the people who feel such temptations as soon as they feel them, and that their superiors (responsible authorities) deal with the problem right away. It is easy to say but the practice of that openness is rather difficult, I think.

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> Hoping that these thoughts might help you,

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Sincerely,

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> P. S.: I want to let you know that we welcome a visitor from Europe here for few days, and then I have to lead a session from the 27 to the 29 in Yokohama. I will be back here late on the 29.