

Mike and Marla Fitzgerald

April 12, 2016

Most Reverend Michael Mulhall,
188 Renfrew Street, P.O. Box 7.
Pembroke Ontario.
K8A-6X1

Dear Bishop Mulhall,

After much thought, research, and reflection over the past seven months, I have decided to respond to your written and verbal statements made on Sunday October 4/2015 at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Bancroft Ontario and directed to it's parishioners. Your written and verbal statements were made in response to a newspaper article in the "Bancroft Times" regarding my claim against the Diocese of Pembroke. The article was written and published by Mr. Barry Hendry, a reporter of repute and character.

In your written statement you use the words "alleged" and "allegations" four times throughout the letter. You also indicate that "at the time, we tried unsuccessfully to reach out to Mr. Fitzgerald".

Regarding the use of the words "alleged" and "allegations", I am NOT an alleged victim. I AM a victim of sexual criminal assault at the hands of Henry Maloney, who was a priest of the Diocese of Pembroke at the time. There is no grey area here Bishop. The truth of the matter lies in my testimony, made under oath. I am deeply offended that you would use this word "alleged" in public, in front of my friends and former fellow parishioners! You have insinuated that there is an element of doubt in what I have stated, and your words have cast a further black pall over my character, which I may never overcome.

Your indication that "at the time, we tried unsuccessfully to reach out to Mr. Fitzgerald" is misleading to the EXTREME, and clouds the truth of what actually happened. If you would kindly refer to the actual text of my deposition you would see that it was actually I who made the first attempt at dealing with this matter, in a private meeting with the reigning Bishop of the time, the Most Reverend Richard Smith. This meeting took place at my request in the parish office at Our Lady of Mercy Church in November of 2005. The meeting was arranged by Father Terrence Sirosky, during a pastoral visit by Bishop Richard Smith. I told Bishop Smith about being sexually abused and assaulted by Henry Maloney, asked him to investigate this claim, and to please advise me of what he found, and of what I could do about it. I never heard from him again!

I believe that you have misrepresented the actual facts of this matter, or at very best have thoughtfully neglected to tell the WHOLE story. The Diocese has been very well aware of my case for MUCH longer than you insinuate.

During this past year I have made many efforts at re-kindling my faith, in the hopes of possibly re-claiming it at some point. One diocesan priest in particular has been of tremendous help in directing my thoughts and rearranging my priorities.

Unfortunately your written and verbal comments continue to be a major stumbling block in my spiritual renewal.

Of great interest to you should be the knowledge that I have just received a very profound, courageous and encouraging correspondence from a member of Henry Maloney's extended family. I was absolutely astonished and very encouraged by this. The message was genuine, full of love and compassion, and is the catalyst which will keep me going in my quest.

Bishop, I am deeply disappointed and somewhat angered that a member of my abuser's family has had to set the "water mark" for you. I would have hoped that you, the Vicar of Christ here in the Diocese of Pembroke, would have taken the initiative and set the example first. Your flock has looked to you for leadership and direction in these sad times, but instead you have chosen to "pass the buck" and cast a black cloud over a victim of criminal sexual assault at the hands of one of your priests. (Deny, Denigrate, and Blame)

With all due respect Bishop, hiding behind the paper shredders and your considerable legal staff is not the answer.

Further, you make reference in your written statement to the parishioners in Bancroft that "We respect the needs of people to live in a manner that is necessary for them at the time" and "Living conditions at a rectory, as described in the press, were deemed to be appropriate in the past".

There is a lot of confusion surrounding your statements here. Is it really "necessary" and "appropriate" to have a 16 year old boy sharing the bed and bedroom of the celibate and chaste parish priest?

Who in heaven's name deemed it "appropriate"?

If this was "acceptable" and "appropriate" in the past, what has changed? Bishop, your coded language defies logic, morals, and ethics!!!

In regards to your statement that "to all concerned in any way by this matter, we pledge our ongoing support", I have not seen nor have I felt any of your "ongoing support". Haven't heard a word!!!!!!

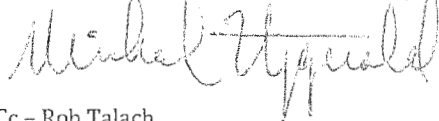
I have seen and felt more "compassion and trust" from the family of my abuser than I have received from you or your staff. All I received from you was piffle and lame incorrect statements designed to besmirch my character.

I am not going away, nor will I disappear in a windstorm, Bishop. I intend to speak to as many of my friends and former fellow parishioners as time will allow. They need, (and deserve) to hear the whole truth, not just part of it.

I also intend to continue my efforts at re-kindling and re-claiming my faith, with or without you.

I am very blessed to have many friends and confidantes (including the extended family of my deceased abuser) and I will lean on them for friendship and guidance.

I just wish it could have been you. It's your choice, not mine. Mike Fitzgerald.



Cc - Rob Talach

Cc - Sylvia

Cc - Pope Francis (Vatican)

Cc - Bancroft Times

Cc - Barry Hendry

**STATEMENT OF
BISHOP MICHAEL MULHALL
CONCERNING THE MATTER OF
FATHER HENRY MALONEY**

As Bishop of the Diocese of Pembroke, I wish to express my profound sadness in learning of the allegations of sexual abuse by Father Henry Maloney. In dealing with this situation, the diocese has done all that it could to respond to its protocol. At the time, we tried unsuccessfully to reach out to Mr. Fitzgerald upon learning of the allegation. Eventually receiving a Statement of Claim that a proceeding in court was undertaken toward the Diocese of Pembroke, we responded in a transparent and cooperative way.

We respect the needs of people to live in a manner that is necessary for them at the time. Though Father Maloney cannot defend himself, the diocese chose to respond to the alleged victim in a respectful way. The protocol of the Diocese of Pembroke for the handling of allegations of Professional Misconduct can be found on our Web Site at pembrokedioocese.com.

Living conditions at a rectory, as described in the press, were deemed to be appropriate in the past. They are not seen in the same light today. As Church we are doing all we can to provide a safe environment for all our people with a particular sensitivity to the vulnerable.

To all concerned in any way by this matter, we pledge our ongoing support. Through compassion and trust, we hope to build respectful relationships.

May the grace of God be the source of peace for all who are touched by this matter.

Friday, October 2, 2015

FEEL FREE TO PRINT IF
YOU CHOSE.

Muf