



DEPARTMENT OF CATECHETICAL MINISTRIES
DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

521 BODEN WAY • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94610-3609 • (415) 834-7311

May 11, 1988

Dear Br. Haig,

I was not present for your meeting with our staff regarding the procedure for reporting sexual abuse. However, I need to inform you of my concern that a **convicted child molester is currently the youth ministry coordinator** at St. Joseph's Parish in Pinole. This fact was reported to you in September when Steve's name was turned in as coordinator, it was reported again in January when people from St. Anne's in Union City recognized Steve at Youth Day (and were furious), I reported it to Sister Leonard on April 13 after Steve requested to be a part of the preparations for SPLUNGE, and I mentioned it to the bishop on April 29.

Today, Steve spoke with Peggy regarding his parish's participation in Beginnings, and on the leadership day he has planned for volunteers NEXT YEAR!! Obviously, **nothing has been done after EIGHT months** of repeated notifications. How are we supposed to have confidence in the system, when nothing is done? A simple phone call to the pastor from the bishop is all that it would take: "We do not allow convicted child molesters to work with children in this diocese."

I need to let you know that because of my personal experience (my husband and I cared for an abused teenager last summer), I personally refuse to speak with Steve, or to include him in on any of the projects I am coordinating. That includes Beginings, SPLUNGE, and Youth Day. Furthermore, I plan to make regular contacts with those in authority until he is removed, or until I am given a satisfactory explanation as to why he should be permitted to remain.

Sincerely,

Maurine Behrend
Office of Youth Ministry

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cc: Dick Logan

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