

8-4-02

[REDACTED]:

How are things for you and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]? Things are going full swing here. I am in Empathy Class and coming to feel what I have stuffed all my life, concerning the abuse I lived with in my own childhood. Feeling that has been the way to feel for others, especially my victims. On the empathy curve I've been at the bottom for 2 weeks now. I do mean the bottom, like bottoming out, depressed. On the "Victim Empathy Process Curve," it reads: offender may emotionally crash, and that's how it feels. Lots of tears or near tears. I have lots of support here and am working through it with others, especially in the class and staff.

Well, the rest of this letter will focus on responding to your letter.

The people at Church who I've been in contact with are:

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

but he wrote

only once (8)

but they have not written back (9)

Outside the Church Group are (1) who expressed an interest to help (); (2) and his partner () also expressed an interest to help (3) (4) ().

Yes, I got a letter from the [REDACTED] about moving in with them. They kindly explained things and that they were going to contact a Group in the Church of God in Christ named COGIC. I am sorry that I misunderstood and hope I did not cause too much difficulty.

(2)

You asked how I will share my news with the Congregation. My intention is to be up front and honest on a need to know bases. There are people I knew when I left and people who were only Sunday morning faces. I don't mean to sound crass! I have brought this up in my groups and with friends here and we are on the same page. Honesty, with no secrets is important, but I don't need to be telling people I really don't know. I feel like I'm not communicating this very well, I'm sorry. and asked this same question. They seem to think that I should address the whole congregation. They offered to read a letter of re-introduction to the congregation before I get back, one that I would write and send to them. If not that, to address the congregation myself when I return. Before I would do this, I feel it would be best to sit down and talk this through together with you and

This bags another question for me to ask. Given the hype on priest pedophiles in Milwaukee and Wisc., I am concerned about the effects on the Congregation if I return as a member of the Church. When I return, I would like to discuss with you and whether it would be appropriate or inappropriate to return to again for the good of the Community. I don't want to be the cause of difficulties within and for the Community.

(3)

I do not remember but I just looked up her picture. Yes, go ahead and talk with her about an apartment. Thanks.

Your awkward question is indeed that. I am sorry that you have had to ask. From my past, there is behaviors that might come out. I did molest 14 boys between the ages of 14-17. This happened over the years of 1969 - 1988. I do not know what the Status of Limitations says about the timing either. To date, I have heard nothing. In mid-July I had my Team Meeting here. On the form they fill out each time there are two questions concerning this matter: ① Are there any retainers and ② are there any other known offenses. The answer was negative to both. The information I've share here is detailed in my Relapse Prevention Plan and what I need to do to prevent relapse. More about this later.

You asked about post release services. There are a number already in place. ① My probation officer. She has not contacted my Case Manager yet. That is a good sign that I am considered low risk and that everything is in reasonable order. ② On Program Review I am classified as low risk. ③ I will be involved in on going Treatment upon my return. They have identified as the best possibility. This will be worked out even further with my P.O. ④ My Support Team. This is the group

that I asked you to be part of. Each member will receive a copy of my 12 page Relapse Prevention Plan. I have just put the finishing touches on it. It contains my Offense History and how I will live so as not to re-offend. The Support Team is really key to my support to live a heartfelt change. It details the areas I need to work on, what I need to do and who to contact when I am having difficulties. It is very extensive and approved by Staff in its final version. The people I have asked are: ① and
(no response yet) ② (no response yet)
③ My probation officer; ④ my Counselor; ⑤ and
(yes); ⑥ (yes); ⑦ (no response yet); ⑧ (no response yet).

You said that this might be difficult to respond to, you letter that is. In ways it is and in ways it is not. I am working on ~~on~~ honesty and saying what I am thinking and feeling. This was good for me to do. Of course I have fretted over this letter since Wednesday when I got your letter. However, the actual writing has been good and I have a sense of relief now that it is done. I am sorry that I've put you through this. I do understand that you want to help!! No problem there. The one thing I am working on in sharing this is the age old fears and abandonment issues that come with sharing this. But, I am doing fine.

(5)

Forgot one point you asked. Why did I leave the priesthood. I'm not sure if I shared with you in the past or not. But the reasons were the split I felt between admitting I was gay and living in the gay community and still being a priest. This hit me especially with the relationship I had with [redacted] at the time. [redacted] was a teacher at the time. Also, I was very tired of the politics and was just tired. So I took a leave of absence and after a year and a half resigned.

Thank you!

Take care!

Dan