



ARCHDIOCESE
OF INDIANAPOLIS

The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

Chancery

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March 26, 2002

Mrs. Melissa E. Limcaco

Terre Haute, IN

Dear Melissa:

This is in reply to your letter of March 14 in which you write of your tragic experience with Harry Monroe when he was a priest. I thank you for having the courage to write this letter.

Your letter was very hard to read and was obviously very hard to write. I am terribly sorry that so many years have passed since your last contact with the Archdiocese and that you have never heard the words of apology that are so necessary.

On behalf of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and from my own heart I apologize to you for the grave harm that was done to your son and to your entire family. The initial harm seems to have been compounded by the lack of information you have had all these years.


You reported Harry Monroe to the Archdiocese in 1981 and received a letter of thanks from Archbishop O'Meara. Our records are unclear about who reported this to authorities or when but it does seem that charges were filed against him at one point and later dismissed. Archbishop O'Meara dismissed Harry Monroe from the priesthood in 1984.

Since that dismissal we have refused to recommend Harry Monroe for any work in which he would be in contact with children. It has been many years since we have been contacted about him and are not sure at this time where he is living.

There is nothing I can say or do now that can ever undo the harm and pain that all of this has caused you. I would like to help you now. Our policies and procedures for handling these matters are explained in the enclosed booklet. Your letter makes it clear that it is very important to keep those who have been harmed informed of what is being done. I apologize to you and your family that this was not done in 1981.

Please contact me at [redacted]. I would like to be of assistance to you and help you heal. You are in my prayers.

Sincerely,


Suzanne L. Magnart, Chancellor