



Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Catholic Church

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April 4, 2011

His Eminence Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

Your Eminence,

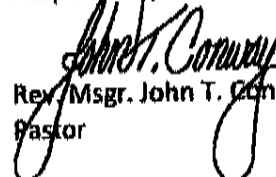
On the evening of March 28th, I met with a few hundred members of our parish. I called the meeting to assure them that, though my name appeared in the 2005 Grand Jury Report in my role as regional vicar, I did not contribute in any way to the shameful and sinful cover-up of child sexual abuse by priests. I explained to them that we regional vicars, along with many others, were kept in the dark about such crimes. I told them, too, that the fact that I was asked to help in the placement of priests into new assignments without being informed of their history of sexual abuse makes me "angry as hell"! I feel that I was duped.

After a while, the focus of that Monday evening meeting shifted to an expression on the part of many of anger directed at you and your predecessors, as well as some others at the top of the Archdiocesan organizational chart. It became very clear midway through the meeting that the faithful want to meet and talk with you, Your Eminence. They are not satisfied with carefully crafted letters and, what are perceived as, calculated news releases. They want you "here"!

On behalf of the suffering Catholics of this area, and at their request, I am asking you to arrange to meet with your people and speak with them heart-to-heart about regaining the trust of their bishop. I know that you cannot visit each parish of the Archdiocese, but please schedule a time to come to the Montgomery County area to assure us that our children will be safe as clergy are reassigned to our parishes in the future. You are most welcome to use Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Church as a meeting place.

I look forward to your response, and pray that you will consider most seriously this plea from your people.

Respectfully,


Rev. Msgr. John T. Conway
Pastor

Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, help us share in the work of redemption.