

January 16, 1994

Pope John Paul II
Papal Palace
00120 Vatican City State

Dear Holy Father,

I am writing this letter to Your Holiness because I have been shaken to the depths of my being and the limit of my soul. In August 1993, I gave your secretary, Father Stanisław Dziwisz, a four page letter in which I described graphic details of the forming scandal in my Diocese of Buffalo. When I wrote, I had a deep hope that Father Dziwisz would get your Your Holiness to take steps to reverse the destructive path in which the diocese was heading. In my letter, I provided my contact information. As of this time, I have not received any response. Additionally, there are no noticeable changes taking place. A destructive program is ongoing which involves the reprogramming of current vocations and turning them into dedicated members of the cliques with specific destructive goals that participate in acts of sodomy. Unsatisfied with just having sex among themselves, they even reach out for much more valuable "forbidden fruit," i.e., innocent underage boys who are a really valuable and sought after "delicacy." The rape of the innocence of the young is a truly demonic. This sexual abuse leaves a stigma that gets imprinted into the minds and souls of the victims. It has a destructive effect on the victims, but also those close them for a lifetime.

It has only been 5 months since I gave my August 1993 letter to Father Dziwisz, and one of the issues I addressed wrote has just blown up. Now we have a public scandal. On December 21, 1993, *The Buffalo News* published an article in which the spiritual director of Christ the King Seminary, Father John Aurelio, after a criminal investigation conducted by the Buffalo Police Department and Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), acknowledged that he sodomized a minor a decade earlier.

Father Aurielo acknowledged having done this along with his priest friend, Father Bernard Mack. Interestingly, Mack appeared in court in Lockport, NY on December 9, 1993, and was also charged with crimes of a similar nature committed in previous years. In addition to Mack, named as defendants in the \$2.9 million lawsuit are also the Buffalo bishops (See the enclosed article about the case).

There are, however, even more scandals involved in this particular case. Today I just read a very gripping article by Jolorrene A. Latona entitled, "One View of an Admitted Child Molester -- A Kind, Loving Man." Undoubtedly, this article discloses the two faces of Rev. Aurelio. On one hand he is a "listening" father; but on the other hand, he is a dangerous sexual criminal - a predator of innocent underage youth. In this article, Latona writes, "Sometime in our lives we learn that we all are mortal. We no longer hold the beliefs that presidents, doctors and priests are beyond any earthly wrongs. So why does this news shake our very souls? Because it is a crime against children, the once unforgivable act -- the act that perpetuates pain for us all. It doesn't end when the act is over. The legacy continues in the lives of all who come in contact with the child, and those lives will be forever changed."

As a seminarian and a candidate for priestly ordination in 1994, I am deeply concerned about the moral destruction of seminarians done by Father Aurelio who is supposed to be their inspiring spiritual director. Father Aurelio is well known for condoning lax moral norms among the clergy. I believe his immoral behavior is the direct result of a gradual process of abandoning faith and morals. This *de facto* problem has become the basis for my master's degree dissertation, "Sexual and spiritual exploitation among Catholic Clergy: Long term psycho-spiritual condition of the perpetrator and the victim in the unthinkable deeds of our time."

Enclosed Your Holiness will find a copy of two newspaper articles along with a Xerox copy of my letter which I personally delivered to your personal secretary, Father Stanisław Dizzies, in Denver, Colorado in August of 1993.

I remain, prayerfully in Christ,

Translated letter – Original in Polish Signed

Wiesław J. Walawender
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Enclosures (3):

"One View of an Admitted Child Molester -- A Kind, Loving Man," *The Buffalo News*, January 16, 1994.
Letter to the Rev. Stanisław Dziwisz, August 5, 1993.

"Sources Say Priest Admits Abusing Boys with Rev. Mach," *The Buffalo News*, December 21, 1993.