

A NUN COMMENTS ON ARCHBISHOP DOLAN'S REMARKS

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Archbishop Timothy Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, made some remarks to reporters during the Fall, 2011 meeting of the USCCB in Baltimore, MD on the sexual abuse scandals at both Penn State University and the Roman Catholic Church.

Archbishop Dolan is quite wrong when he says that the present Penn State scandal “over a former football coach accused of sexually abusing young boys “reopens a wound for the U.S. Roman Catholic Church.”

The “wound” Dolan refers to has never closed. It is a “wound” that has continued to fester since the Archdiocese of Boston, Massachusetts imploded in 2002.

Why?

Well, for one thing the bishops of the United States have never really admitted, individually or collectively, to their part in covering up for clergymen known to be sexual predators of children and young people.

Yes, the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church has “a long way to go,” in making up for the egregious crimes that have been committed against children.

“Failures” and “mistakes” though, are words that hardly begin to describe the agony thousands of children were left to go through while the few adults who dared to confront pastors or bishops over the behavior of rogue priests were bullied, harassed and intimidated into silence, often with threats of eternal damnation.

They were crimes and they were crimes against the very humanity of these innocent children.

Archbishop Dolan, you offered to work with “Penn State administrators on a national education campaign to stop abuse.”

Does your offer extend to working with advocacy groups in Pennsylvania whose goal is legislative reform? If it does there are several groups that were formed in response to the 2011 grand jury investigation on the Archdiocese of Philadelphia who are now working for reform in Pennsylvania.

Sadly though, at this very moment Philadelphia’s Archbishop Charles Chaput has united with the bishops of Pennsylvania and the PA Catholic Conference in opposing any legislation that would enable victim/survivors of childhood sexual abuse to access justice, no matter when they were sexually exploited or by whom.

How do you explain that?

No, Archbishop Dolan, I'm afraid that neither you nor most of your fellow bishops has a clue as to the suffering that the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church has caused and continues to inflict on sexual abuse victims because it has never been truly accountable or transparent.

No one in the Catholic community has suffered more than the innocent children whose minds, hearts and souls were torn asunder by those who stood in the place of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Baltimore's former archbishop, Cardinal William Keeler, correctly described such horrific sexual abuse by a trusted minister of God when he used the term "soul murder," for it is truly that.

Archbishop Timothy Dolan should be at the head of the parade in supporting the removal of all criminal and civil statutes of limitation in regard to the sexual abuse of children.

Anything less should be morally repugnant to all.

Sister Turlish is an advocate for legislative reform in Pennsylvania who spoke to House Bills 832 & 878 at the invitation of Rep. Michael McGeehan when they were introduced in Harrisburg on March 01, 2011 Her name was also put forward for inclusion on Louis Freeh's committee investigating Penn State University by PA Representatives Louise Bishop and Michael McGeehan.