

November 14, 2006

Rev. Gerard Smit



Dear Gerard:

I suspect you are quite aware from the recent media coverage that Frank DeLuca, a retired priest of the Diocese of Wilmington, removed from ministry in the early 1990's for child abuse, was arrested and charged with five counts of abuse and endangerment by the Syracuse Police. The reaction of the media to this disclosure has been severe. As we expected, Bishop Saltarelli has been soundly criticized for not having released the names of those with credible and substantiated allegations of child sexual abuse as a way of protecting other children. This new offense by a priest retired and removed some 13 years ago, so many are claiming, could have been avoided had the Bishop disclosed the name.

In a recent meeting the Diocese's Review Board (The Charter to Protect Children and Young People requires each Diocese to have such a body to advise the Bishop on these matters) unanimously and strongly recommended to Bishop Saltarelli that he change his position strongly held these past four years of not revealing names and release all names now. The Bishop has accepted the Review Board's recommendation.

The purpose of my writing to you is to advise you of the Bishop's intention before the actual publication of names in *The Dialog*. We anticipate that publication of the names will occur in the November 16 edition.

I regret having to communicate this information to you. However, the case made by the Review Board (and the public) to reveal the names as a proactive effort to protect children is quite strong.

Sincerely,

Msgr. J. Thomas Cini
Vicar General

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