

## Long Island Voice of the Faithful

### "Throw Open the Windows"

"You cannot ask institutions to take responsibility for the failures of a few individuals whose actions took place 40 and 50 years ago."

Dennis Poust, Communications Director, N.Y. State Catholic Conference (policy arm of the state's Catholic Bishops), regarding the defeat of the Child Sex Abuse Bill, 6/3/10

*Who, then, should bear the responsibility, Mr. Poust, when those institutions have shielded the perpetrators of child sex abuse?*

Any person who, having made vows to holiness, "destroys others through word or example" would have been better off having died of their misdeeds. "Without a doubt, if they were to fall on their own, their torment in Hell would be easier to bear." Children are a reminder to the disciples of Christ to look to Heaven "with a pure heart, with docility, abandonment, confidence, enthusiasm and hope." All these things make the child "precious in the eyes of God and the eyes of the true disciple of Christ. How much, though, the earth becomes arid and the world sad when such a beautiful image...this 'holy icon,' is trampled, shattered, muddied, abused and destroyed." In the case of a pedophile priest, "it would be really better that his evil deeds cause him death in his lifetime" under secular laws than suffer "more terrible damnation in Hell..."

Msgr. Charles Scicluna, Vatican Attorney, 5/31/10

Long Island Voice of the Faithful calls on New York State's Bishops to stop their obstruction of justice to ALL victims of child sexual abuse, and to stop spending thousands of dollars of YOUR money fighting the New York State Child Victims' Act.

And while Msgr. Scicluna's words, said during a Vatican prayer service for those abused by clergy, show concern, they remain hollow as long as priests who abused children and the bishops who enabled and hid them remain in the shadows.

As Pope John XXIII said at the beginning of the Second Vatican Council, it is time for the Catholic Church to throw open its windows. It is time for the best disinfectant, the light of day, to shine on the secrets. It is time for the Church to stop hiding its sins, to stop attempting to police itself a la Enron, and to at long last provide truth, accountability, and justice to those abused by clergy. It is time to open the windows.