

Send the Bishops a Me\$\$age

September 5, 2010

Most Rev. William Murphy
Diocese of Rockville Centre □
50 North Park Ave. (PO Box 9023)
Rockville Centre, NY 11571-9023 □

Enclosure: 20,000 Pennies

Dear Bishop Murphy:

In the parable of the Good Samaritan in the tenth chapter of Luke, Jesus tells us what it means to love our neighbor. Here is an update to the Good Samaritan story to make it more relevant to the present crisis of credibility. A child was on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell prey to a pedophile priest, who stripped the child, viciously violated him, and departed, leaving the child half dead. Another priest saw the violated child but passed by on the other side. Similarly a bishop saw the child and passed by on the other side. But a Good Samaritan saw the violated child and was moved with compassion. He bound up the child's wounds, and took care of him. The next day the Good Samaritan took the child to an inn and gave his own money to the host of the inn and said, "Take care of the child. I will repay whatever you spend."

Bishop Murphy, are you a Good Samaritan?

We, the undersigned, on behalf of the four organizations identified below--and on behalf of over a dozen co-sponsor partners--donate to you and the diocese of Rockville Centre 20,000 pennies as a seed or starter donation for a proposed Diocese of Rockville Centre Good Samaritan Clergy Sexual Abuse Victims' Trust. The trust will distribute grants to victims of clerical sexual abuse that occurred in the Rockville Centre diocese since 1950. The grants will help victims and their families recover and heal from the trauma that resulted from the abuse. The number 20,000 represents a conservative (low) estimate of the persons who experienced, as children, sexual abuse by Catholic priests, deacons, religious brothers and sisters, and other church employees since 1950. (We believe the actual number of sexual abuse victims since 1950 is well over 100,000).

The trustees of the trust must be independent of the Church. We propose that you and we jointly choose the trustees, who will collectively have proven skills and expertise in trust administration and management, financial management, the medical healing arts and sciences, and the civil justice system. We suggest that we meet with you in the next 60 days to start discussing the details of the proposed trust and how it will work.

Best regards,

Frank Douglas, founder/president, Desert Voices, Inc.; 7850 N Silverbell # 114-178, Tucson, AZ 85743; (520) 404-2489; and national director of Send the Bishops a Message, an initiative of Desert Voices, Inc.

Richard Tollner, associate director, New York Victims' Voice

Rev. Robert Hoatson, president/founder, Road To Recovery, Inc.

Kristine Ward, chair, National Survivors Advocates Coalition (NSAC)