



# THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ONE PETER YORKE WAY, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109-6602 (415) 614-5500

August 4, 2005

Ms. Debby Bodkin  
139 Abbeywood Lane  
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

Dear Ms. Bodkin,

Thank you for your letter of July 25, 2005, addressed to Archbishop William J. Levada, Prefect for the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith. Your letter arrived in the Archbishop's office as he was making final preparations for his departure from San Francisco and permanent relocation to Rome.

Please be assured that your letter will be sent to the Congregation's office in Rome for the Archbishop's review as he takes up his new duties.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Steven J. Lopes STD  
Secretary to the Archbishop

cc: Archbishop William J. Levada

July 25, 2005

Sent Via Email & Certified Mail  
(info@sfarchdiocese.org)

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco  
The Reverend Archbishop William Levada  
One York Way  
San Francisco, CA 94109

Re: Protections of Children

Dear Archbishop Levada:

In anticipation of your departure to Rome, it is respectfully requested that you evaluate the items described herein as you begin your new leadership role as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

I am a Catholic mother and a passionate supporter in the SNAP (Survivors of those Abused by Priests) organization. No one in my family is a victim of clergy sex abuse and it is my belief that the protections of children from sex abuse and other dangers is now Society's problem, to fix and correct.

On July 15, 2005, I launched a public website, [www.catholics4justice.com](http://www.catholics4justice.com) to continue efforts to support the safety of children, adults and those who protect them as mandated reporters, Diocesan employees, teachers, coaches and administrators. Since the launching of the website, I have received inquiries from employees in multiple Dioceses nationwide regarding the subject matters described below. It is my hope to obtain policies and/or answers from you as soon as possible.

Please provide a copy and/or contact person relating to:

1. Policy stating how a Diocesan employee, child or adult should report information relating to sex abuse crimes that have occurred in the past and relate to cases that have settled and/or completed litigation. Evidently, some employees are confused about whether to report knowledge of past sex abuses. Please provide some type of direction in this regard.

2. Policy stating all "Whistleblower" protections within the Catholic Diocesan workplaces. Evidently, many Diocesan employees believe that Whistleblower protections are not available in the Catholic workplace. It is very important that this concern be resolved as soon as possible. In order to protect children from sex abuses, Diocesan employees must feel at ease when making a report of sex abuse, without fear of employment termination or adverse employment decision, after a report of abuse is made.

3. Policy stating how a report regarding any misconduct by a "supervisory" Diocesan employee is made in the event due process of the law is denied to a child, parent, member or employee.

4. California's 2003 Sex Abuse Law has revealed that many sex abuse crimes and reports were handled with poor judgment by Catholic Bishops and/or Diocesan employees. In order to protect the rights relating to equal protections of the law nationwide, it is respectfully requested that as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, you will lead a voluntarily support of legislation nationwide, similar to California's 2003 Sex Abuse Law, which will lift the statute of limitations for a period of one year, so victims facing statute of limitation expirations can seek civil due process in a court of law. This important step will allow victims nationwide to seek justice and healing that has been denied for many years in addition to saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in unnecessary attorneys' fees and court costs.

May God bless you in your new leadership role. Please feel free to contact me at the address below or via email at bodkind@hotmail.com if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to receiving information that will assist in the protections of children and those who protect them.

Sincerely,  


Debby Bodkin, Founder  
Catholics4Justice.com

cc:  
California Catholic Conference of  
Bishops (conference@cacatholic.org)  
U.S. Attorney General (AskDOJ@usdoj.gov)  
California Attorney General  
U.S.C.C.B.  
Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Michael Hennigan, Esq.

Return Address:

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