

Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron, OFM Cap, D.D.  
Archdiocese of Agana, Guam  
196 B Cuesta San Ramon  
Hagatna, GUAM 96910  
February 22, 2010

Via Email and Fax  
(671) 477-3519  
[info@aganacathedral.org](mailto:info@aganacathedral.org)  
[eweisenberger@mail.archdioceseofagana.com](mailto:eweisenberger@mail.archdioceseofagana.com)  
Dear Archbishop Apuron,

We are dismayed and disturbed at your February 12, 2010 response to our heartfelt letter, asking for help for victims of sexual abuse in the Archdiocese.

Not only have you refused to take token steps of posting information about support group meetings and helplines for victims, but you went even further to marginalize and minimize the problem of sexual abuse on Guam - and compound the pain of survivors - by claiming that since no cleric has been arrested for sexual abuse in your Archdiocese, then "no problem exists."

The vast majority - more than 99 percent - of child molesting clerics are never arrested, in part because church officials successfully conceal crimes, destroy evidence, protect predators, deceive parishioners and 'run out the clock' until victims have no legal remedies. So the issue isn't who has or hasn't been arrested. The issue is: Who are the proven, admitted and credibly accused child molesting clerics who have or had access to Guam kids and why aren't you telling parents who and where they are? Anything less is reckless, dangerous and against the Lenten traditions you claim to espouse.

You ask your faithful to fast and attend Mass. We ask you to make small steps to help the most vulnerable in your care. It's the least you can do.

That is why we are asking you to hold an open and well-publicized meeting with victims and the faithful to address our concerns. We ask for a healing, supportive environment where people are free to ask you the "tough questions" that are necessary to keep kids safe. We also ask that you schedule the meeting at a time where a member of SNAP can attend, to offer support and safety for men and women addressing their abuse for the first time.

In addition, we would like to reiterate our requests from last week ~

We ask you to delay no longer and immediately post on the Archdiocesan website and parish printed and online materials:

- the names, whereabouts, work histories, and current status of predator clerics,
- information about SNAP and how victims on Guam can receive help and healing, and
- contact information for sex crimes law enforcement where survivors can go and report their abuse.

Survivors of sexual abuse on Guam carry a great deal of unnecessary pain. They live in fear and isolation. They suffer from shame - shame stemming from their abuse and shame at the fact that you have done nothing to ensure that what happened to them never happens to another child.

In the Lenten spirit, we believe that this is the least you can do to show your compassion, love and support for victims and the faithful.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Joelle Casteix  
SNAP SW Regional Director

(949) 322-7434

David Clohessy  
SNAP National Director  
314-566-9790