

2/22/12

"An Open Letter"

Brother Walsh,

Your statement about "credible claims" is untrue, or at best is a witness to your attempt to deceive, disavow or dissimble the true stories of sexual abuse, physical abuse and emotional torment and degradation that occurred at Bugea Catholic in the 1960's. I personally communicated with 25 classmates, telling of my own experiences of abuse by Brother Siebert and Brother Arwin. Of those 25 classmates, 23 stated that they experienced the same, or worse. Some, far worse. All but a handful however expressed a sense of helplessness and futility in addressing such matters with Bugea Catholic or any branch of the Catholic Church. Several urged me to "put it all behind" me. None suggested that I offer forgiveness to the offenders.

When I visited your school several years ago I met with the principal, Mrs. Millais, and two alumni, including Jim Jacobson, '66. They politely walked me through the school, and in our conversation admitted there were indeed numerous instances of abuse. Those admissions of wrongs were half of what I sought. The other piece of my quest was for an apology on behalf of the school. You, Brother Walsh, have not offered an apology and have, in effect, rescinded the acknowledgment of guilt that was previously proffered to me. I'm sure that your attorney suggested this stance. You were not personally involved in those horrible, haunting experiences, but you had an opportunity to resolve them. But you chose the other way. You are a coward and perpetrator by association, and silence.

Thomas Schwarz

cc. James Stang; Mitchell Garabedian; Michael Pfau

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