

Road to Recovery, Inc.
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May 3, 2012

To:

Christian Brothers Provincials from the mid-1980's to the Present:

Harold Michael Delaney
Paul Kevin Hennessy
James Brendan Moffett
Brian Marcellus Walsh
Hugh O'Neill

RE: Shielding, hiding, and covering up sexual abuse by Br. John Justin O'Connor

On Wednesday, April 26, 2012, I stood in front of Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx with two sexual abuse victims of Br. John Justin O'Connor when he was Dean of Discipline at that school in the middle to late 1980s. Those victims are now in their forties and have barely survived the horrific sexual abuse they endured while students at Cardinal Hayes. A few years ago, another O'Connor victim contacted me to say that he, too, was viciously sexually abused by O'Connor as a new student to the school.

The disturbing aspect of all this is that you knew about O'Connor all these years, as early as 1985 and as late as April, 2012. You allowed the "monster" who preyed on unsuspecting teenagers at Cardinal Hayes, many of whom were members of minority populations, not only to hide from authorities but teach, pursue further studies, and occupy educational leadership positions for decades. Shame on all of you.

I was a member of the Congregation of Christian Brothers when Justin O'Connor was removed from Cardinal Hayes, and you allowed the story to circulate among the Eastern American Province that O'Connor had gone to a "fat farm" to take care of his obesity. You knew what was wrong with him, what he had done to children, and you didn't take appropriate action. He could have been arrested and prosecuted had you reported him to law enforcement officials, and his victims could have gotten on the road to recovery much sooner.

After his return from a "fat farm," O'Connor was assigned to Bergen Catholic and then allowed to pursue doctoral studies at Fordham University where I signed his "tuition reduction vouchers" when I was an administrator at the Center for Non-Public Education on the Lincoln Center Campus. You "used" me to help facilitate the career path of a pedophile who never should have received another assignment in the Congregation of Christian Brothers. He should have been in prison by then.

Instead, he was appointed President of Iona Prep and a member of the Board of Trustees of Iona College. He spent many days wining and dining the rich and famous at places like the Larchmont Shore Club and restaurants and country clubs throughout Westchester County. You allowed this to go on for one reason: to avoid scandal and negative publicity. His victims, in the meantime, continued to suffer from the devastating consequences of having been sexually abused. Shame on you.

The teenage boys who came forward to report their abuse by Justin O'Connor were called "con-men" and "liars" by priests, Christian Brothers, and others. They were sons of immigrants from Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and elsewhere who struggled to pay thousands of dollars of tuition annually so their sons could receive a "better" education. What they encountered was a cauldron of sexual abuse, lies, cover-up, and deceit from men who claimed to be "of God."

It is my hope that all involved in these tragedies can still be held accountable both criminally and civilly for what has occurred. At least, you should be relegated to lives of prayer and penance for what you did or did not do.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Hoatson, Ph.D.
Co-founder and President

Cc: Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson
Congregation Leader Philip Pinto, Rome, Italy