

James A. Blatt
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His Holiness Pope Francis
Apostolic Palace
00120, Vatican City

To his Holiness Pope Francis,

The Jesuits as an order were taught to the students of my Catholic elementary school to be revered as the most educated and missionary of the priests in the Church. This is how I remember my teachers' opinions. There's a friend of Alcoholics Anonymous named Fr. Martin who is the only other Jesuit priest I know as such who has had a direct affect on me. To me, the Pope is God's man on Earth.

I credit the Holy See's proclamation of action on the sex-abuse scandal that has plagued the reputation of John Paul II due to His inaction and marred Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI for his failure or inability to reconcile publicly with victims and handle this scourge as You have. It is my opinion as A Catholic and as an American that abuse of children is intolerable and that across the board abuse of children must be eradicated and exposed for prosecution. I was an altar boy without incident through a handful of priests and incidents such as this never even occurred to me as happening until the media broke the story and later the obstruction.

One priest from this handful was Fr. Vincent York, formerly of St. Ursula's parish, Fountain Hill, PA. I heard Fr. York gained the title of Monsignor and herewith express my opinion that he was a man of God who wanted to bring the Good News to his parish and beyond (specifically to the non-Catholics in the parish school I attended through 5th grade, Holy Child School). St. Ursula's was a bustling parish before my disillusionment with faith at 16. Many have passed this life from my days of consistent attendance.

I'd wager that someone has written you this about papal infallibility too, which as a doctrine exists whenever You speak. A fallible man declared himself infallible after his elevation to the throne of St. Peter and in the catechism I was taught (and believe) the Pope is actually God's man on earth to all Christians. The papacy exerts power over sovereign monarchs, also mere mortals. A protestant denomination, the Moravian Church, has a saying "VICIT AGNUS NOSTER EUM SEQUAMUR!" that I very much like.

In closing I extend my condolences for your recent personal family tragedy and to express that I joined You in prayer on the matter.

I am,

Very truly yours,

James A. Blatt