



COUNCIL OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS
in the United States of America

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April 3, 2009

Gabe Azzaro
2250 Avenida Magnifica
Apt. J
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Dear Gabe,

I received your note of February 9, 2009 regarding what you and Steve would like to have the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) do to prevent sexual abuse by women religious. The Board of Directors met in March to discuss your request.

As the Board reviewed what you had proposed, we recalled your initial contact with us, your July 29, 2008 e-mail, asking if we would allow "a few survivors of sexual abuse by women religious to speak with your organization." This meeting occurred on October 9, 2008, at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois, with most of the CMSWR Board of Directors present. The Board listened to your presentation and expressed sorrow for what you, Steve, and other victims endured. Your coming face-to-face with women religious, knowing that it opens a wound, was courageous.

With our Holy Father, we are ashamed that acts of abuse were perpetrated by priests and religious apparently representing the Church. No one has a right to take such innocence away from anyone, young or old.

To implement the plan described in your February 9, 2009 e-mail letter is not the role of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious. As I said to you at our meeting in Belleville, our work with you will be one of prayer. Know of the prayers of the membership of the CMSWR for you, even if we have no further active collaboration.

As we anticipate Holy Week and the liturgy commemorating Our Lord's Passion, death, and Resurrection, my prayer for you is that you will find healing through Jesus Christ. He is the greatest of all healers. May He bless you, and each of us, with His mercy and love as He beckons us to a new relationship with Him. He died on the Cross for love of each of us. May His love heal all of us!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mother Mary Quentin Sheridan, R.S.M." The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid.

Mother Mary Quentin Sheridan, R.S.M.
Chairperson