



CHANCERY

DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE

P. O. BOX 3387 LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70502

July 20, 2018



Dear [REDACTED]

I am most grateful for your willingness to meet with me and to talk about the terrible abuse you received at the hands of Father Michael Guidry. For me, most importantly, it was an opportunity, in the name of the Church, to apologize to you and to express my shame that you were harmed most intimately by a person who should have modeled for you the exact opposite.

I will not repeat all that I tried to communicate in that apology, to the best of my limited human ability in that moment. I tried to be as sincere as I could be. I believe that you received everything I tried to communicate with openness and thoughtfulness. You pointed out, and I suppose it was a phone call [REDACTED] that helped me see that, I should have given greater respect to the matter of the luncheon which has been the cause of so much grief, had a horrible symbolic impact and is a source of division. I try always to be respectful of people's feelings as I hope others are to my own. I am sorry that I rushed the issue or played it down. I now realize, that the luncheon which happened at the time Father Guidry moved his belongings represents to you a terrible disrespect and insensitivity to the trauma inflicted upon you in the very place where people shared a meal together. You expressed your feelings most strongly when you asked, "Would you have lunch with a pedophile?"

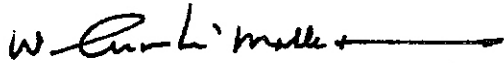
I want you to know that when the removal of belongings became necessary, I instructed Monsignor Courville (repeatedly) that he was to instruct Father Guidry and, to also monitor that the removal of Father's belongings was to happen as "discreetly as possible." We were both aware that Morrow is a small town and few things go unnoticed. I gave this direction with the bishop's specific concurrence about the manner in which this move was to be done, i.e.

“discreetly.” Discreetly meant for me in a way that caused the least attention and most importantly the least pain for you, your family, and a struggling parish family.

I have the deepest respect for how you personally, and also your family, have conducted yourselves. I intend to address the issue with Father Guidry, and Monsignor Courville, particularly pointing out to them the painful repercussions of aspects of the move which, whether planned, or spontaneous drew an unconsidered and out of place attention to a sinful and criminal act.

You and your family are devout people who have loyally served God’s Church. That fact must be respected and it can never be taken away. I continue to stand ready to help you and to fulfill my duties to the best of my ability, with God’s help. I hope that what I have written will give you some small relief and the assurance that we stand with you.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Curtis Mallet" followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Very Reverend Monsignor W. Curtis Mallet, JCL
Vicar General

Copy: Most Reverend J. Douglas Deshotel, DD