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1/7/03.

The Provincial,
Society of Mary,
Province of Cincinnati,
4435 East Patterson Road,
Dayton, Ohio, 45430-1095.


Dear Brother,

Re.: Mrs. Mairead Ashcroft.

I have seen Mrs. Ashcroft since April, 2003, in my capacity as a clinical psychologist in regard to counselling for sexual abuse she suffered at the hands of Brother Bernard Hartmann as a child. One of the issues raised in counselling is Mrs. Ashcroft's concern that Brother Bernard may still have access via the internet, his work etc., to perpetuating similar crimes. Whilst she has received a letter from Brother Kamis, dated 3/11/1999, offering reassurance in this regard, the letter fails to state exactly what work Brother Hartmann is doing, what access does he have to computers etc., and so her concerns remain. It may assist Mrs. Ashcroft to allay these concerns if she had a clearer idea of exactly what work Brother Hartmann does now, and what checks are in place, apart from counselling, to supervise his movements.

Another issue raised is her sense from Brother Hartmann's letter, dated 3/11/1999, that he has not acknowledged his actions as being wrong, and his reference in the letter to his "part" suggests to her that he may consider she had "a part" in the abuse, too. He does not indicate his current views on such behaviours and whether there has been any shift in how he considers sexual acts with children, and feels remorse. Again, a response from Brother Hartmann addressing these issues, may be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,


Janet Wilkinson,
Clinical Psychologist.

I do not feel satisfied with the correspondence that I had with Bro. Joseph Kamis or Bernard Hartman on November 3 1999. I can't stop thinking about the children who are living in close proximity to Bernard Hartman. I desperately need more information about the steps taken to protect any further victims and how it is possible for him to not have contact with children. The worry for these children is tormenting me, as I know how one person's terrible actions can greatly harm them now and forever.

I want to know as much information as possible. I understand that there are privacy issues and the information that you can give me will be limited but please, I cannot get any peace until I am absolutely sure that Bernard Hartman cannot hurt any other children.

Could you please respond to this heart felt plea as soon as possible.

MAIREAD ASHCROFT