

To “The Investigators”:

I read with delight your attempt to frighten me into silence. “Shooting the messenger” has a long and pathetic history. If you think that revealing my alleged past faults and sins will bother me, you could not be more mistaken. I, unlike you, hope to go to heaven trusting in God’s infinite mercy and love – and not my own self-righteousness. Whatever you think you might find in my life will only be a cause for wonder and awe at the mercy of God that He could use such an unworthy servant. By the way, do you remember St. Peter’s first words to Jesus? “*Leave me Lord – I am a sinful man!*” Isn’t it wonderful that we don’t have to be perfect to go to heaven, just forgiven! As for me being homosexual, ask my wife and kids!

As for your suggestion that I am dishonest: When you reveal the names of your so-called “Investigation Committee,” I will be delighted to open RCF’s books for your expert examination. You see, I don’t believe that you exist. I believe that your letter is a rather childish reaction on the part of an individual, who is frightened by the truth and afraid that his scandalous behavior will be made known, to frighten me into silence. It won’t work! But thanks for the list of names. There are two names there that I don’t think have ever been brought up in public. I wonder what made you think of them? There are also two names that are strangely absent from your list: Bishop Daniel Ryan and Monsignor Gene Costa. For further information regarding the “insults” I have committed about them, contact the Springfield Police Department or check your local newspaper.

There’s an old saying: “You’re known by your enemies as well as your friends.” Jesus had plenty of enemies. (Every Good Friday, don’t you shout, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” along with the rest of the congregation? Or perhaps you read the Priest’s part.) In any case, I find your letter very affirming! It was Jesus who said, “I came, not to bring peace, *but a sword!*” - and we are the Church militant!

Finally, you say “We know who you are.” Yes, you do. My name and the names of the Board of Directors are public record. Because you skulk in the shadows and send childish threats, I hope you will understand why I just won’t tremble when you say “Watch for us!” If I heard you in the dark, all I would have to do is turn on the light *and you would scurry away...*

Stephen Brady