

From: "XXXXXXXX XXXXXX" <XXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXX.xxx>

Subject: Letter from Brother Walsh

Date: February 16, 2012 3:15:50 PM EST

To: "jbranciforte@bergencatholic.org" <jbranciforte@bergencatholic.org>

Cc: Kobutsu Malone <kobutsu@engaged-zen.org>

Dear Mr. Branciforte,

I am writing to you in hopes that you will pass this letter on to Bro. Walsh. [Redacted sentence]

First a little background on me. [Redacted paragraph]

Two years ago I received a call from a friend of 40+ years standing who had his two sons very late in life. His younger son was expressing strong interest in BC and my friend, who was a public school graduate and sent his older boy to XXXXXXXXXXXX XX asked my opinion of BC. I enthusiastically endorsed BC and his son is now a sophomore and is having a great experience. Both he and his parents are very happy with their decision.

I want to also note that I am hardly an activist type of guy. Although I was at XXXXXXXXXXXX during the height of the Vietnam War protests it was not my thing and I tend to be conservative on most matters.

Last year I became aware of the advocacy of Kobutsu Malone (Kevin when I knew him as a freshman in 1964) surrounding his treatment by Bro. Charles Irwin. Instantly vivid recollections of Bro. Irwin's treatment of fellow students came flooding back to me. I remember him very well as a foul mouthed basically unhygienic bully who reeked of tobacco and took great pleasure in humiliating students. Inasmuch as I was a pretty straight arrow who did well academically and didn't cause any problems I escaped Bro. Irwin's wrath. I watched Bro Irwin on many occasions put his hands down the back of students pants and grab their rear ends. At the time homosexuality and pedophilia were not on my radar screen and I viewed his routine as just an extension of his bullying. A few weeks ago Kobutsu put me in touch with another classmate of ours who, like Kobutsu, left BC after freshman year. I was not friendly with Kobutsu but was with this other student. I am not comfortable giving you his name but if you are interested I will ask him if its alright to share it with you. Unlike Kobutsu, this fellow was a friend of mine who had graduated with me from XXXXXXXX in XXXXXXXX. He lived in XXXXXXXX. So while we were friends we didn't spend a lot of time together. However I recall his staying at my house a few times and vice versa. I was disappointed when he left BC as he was a nice guy. [Redacted sentence] My XXXXXXXX friend wrote to tell me of the horrible abuse he received at the hand of Bro. Irwin which occurred not only in the classroom but in one case after school when Bro. Irwin not only put his hand down the back of his pants but also then moved his hand and touched my friend's penis. He never told his parents of the incident but went home that night and pleaded with them to allow him to transfer out of BC which they did.

Today I wrote to my friend whose son is a sophomore to ask her if she was aware of the planned demonstration at BC. She sent me Bro. Walsh's letter which is attached. I am not the type to make accusations when I don't have the facts so its entirely possible that Bro. Walsh is not aware of the pattern of abuse by Charles Irwin. However I would assume that he must know something about Kobutsu's advocacy and a simple Google search of "Bergen Catholic Sexual Abuse" will lead you right to the site. Regrettably for BC, Brother Walsh, you and your colleagues the bankruptcy matter does involve BC as there will be claimants who were abused by Bro. Irwin. As I said I personally was not but in retrospect it was so horrifying I wrote a letter to one of the attorneys who is representing students who were abused at BC and other Christian Brother schools corroborating the allegations against Bro. Irwin. I would not have written this letter to you today had I not seen Bro. Walsh's letter. I certainly hope that Bro. Walsh will consider amending his letter to apprise the incumbent parents that it is quite possible that sexual abuse did occur at Bergen Catholic at least in the 1960's.

Again, I write not out of malice but out of a sense of deep concern that I witnessed sexual abuse by Bro. Irwin on a number of occasions. As I have watched the clergy sexual abuse saga unfold one of the most disturbing aspects of it has been repeated denials by a number of Bishops, Cardinal Egan being one of the most prominent, that abuse occurred on their watch. Sadly each of these bishops has been proven wrong time and again. I certainly hope that Bro. Walsh is not put in the same position.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Again, I would appreciate your showing it to Bro. Walsh.

Sincerely yours,

XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX
BC Class of 1968