



Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests

SNAP  
700 North Green, #504  
Chicago, IL 60642

October 16, 2009

Dear Dr. McNulty,

We are writing in behalf of Dr. Steve Taylor. Steve and his wife Lyn helped to found the New Orleans chapter of SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests. In a strong Catholic Community, like New Orleans, it is often very hard for victims of clergy sex abuse to come forward and report these horrific crimes. But the burden has been lightened because of the leadership and support that Dr Steve and Lyn Taylor have provided. Their willingness to educate people about abuse and the lifelong effects it has on victims finally allowed many survivors to feel safe enough to come forward and get the help they needed and deserved.

Dr. Taylor helped to organize many events to draw attention to the devastating effects of abuse. For example in 2003 he helped organize a vigil to remember those victims who had taken their own lives. Close to 100 people stood with photos of these victims while a list of over 50 names was read. Many survivors and family members of the suicide victims still claim that that public event empowered them to admit the abuse and seek healing. In addition to the public events that have educated the entire New Orleans region we know that Dr. Taylor has privately helped many survivors and family members cope with the horrors of child sexual abuse.

We, like you, do not know whether Dr Taylor is innocent or guilty of the crimes that have been alleged. We ask that you refrain from taking any action on this case until Dr. Taylor's guilt or innocence is determined in a court of law. By long standing tradition Americans are presumed innocent until proven guilty. We ask that you grant Dr. Taylor the same presumption.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Barbara Blaine*

Barbara Blaine  
SNAP President  
312-399-4747