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March 26, 2019

Mr. Vincent Doyle  
[www.copinginternational.com](http://www.copinginternational.com)

Dear Mr. Doyle,

Thank you for sending your thoughtful letter on February 23, 2019. Please excuse this delay in responding. Know that I read your letter with great interest and edification. The church cares for all the People of God and calls on parents to see to the needs of their children. Turning away from children fathered by priests is simply not an option. As you wisely write, "theirs is a pain characterized by non-acknowledgment." That is why, as you read in the media, when we in the Archdiocese of Chicago have been informed of a priest who has fathered a child, we have worked to see that financial resources are available for the child's care, and that the father accepts his obligations.

Thank you also for your kind words, and for sharing your sense of encouragement from the meeting in Rome. For sure, thanks to the courage of the victim survivors who shared their truths, it was a transformative experience for all who attended, and I am hopeful that we have embarked on a fresh path toward responsibility, accountability and transparency — in other words, toward justice.

The children of priests deserve advocates with an unswerving commitment to the rights of such children, who must be at the center of all decisions local churches make in responding to these cases. Be assured that you and the work of COPING will be in my prayers, and I ask your prayers for me.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Archbishop of Chicago