



N. 15-174

May 6, 2015

President
COPING International

Thank you for your kind letter and God bless your heart for your kind intentions. The problem to which you have referred and that the organization of which you are president is something that the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines takes with utmost seriousness.

We have produced guidelines for our bishops to go by in dealing with persons who are victimized by the indiscretions of priests. We take care of the victims, and our solicitude includes the best interests of the children in such difficult situations. We pray with and assist the offending priest in finding the way of conversion, asking him above all to be docile to the prompting of the Spirit, and we extend every assistance to which women and children who may be involved are legally and morally entitled.

There are desks on the diocesan level and also at the national level that deal with the legal issues involved, never losing sight of our pastoral obligations and the demands of charity.

Your input is most welcome, and as soon as I receive in written form your suggestions and proposals, I shall take these up with the relevant commission of the CBCP and agenda it for the examination of our Permanent Council. I therefore hope to receive these valuable materials from you in the soonest possible time. As I am engaged in the pastoral administration of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan aside from visiting brother-bishops in their sees, I am seldom at the Intramuros Office. However, you may leave your materials in a sealed envelope at the Secretariat. I shall most certainly receive them.

Once more, please be assured of my gratitude for your concern, and for the intention you give a vulnerable sector of our society.

Sincerely in the Lord

+ SOCRATES B. VILLEGAS
Archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan
President, CBCP