

“Shame on bishop for his ‘support’ of monsignors”

Bishop W. Francis Malooly is splitting proverbial hairs in the reasons he gives for his “complete support and gratitude” of Monsignors Cini, Lemon and Rebman.

He has also squandered the good will of the people of Delaware who put their faith in him to do better than his predecessors.

I agree with Matt Conaty, co-chairman of the survivors’ committee in U.S. Bankruptcy Court, when he says that Bishop Malooly’s “wasting a great opportunity” to finally do something right. Whether they were the actual “architects” of a strategy to cover up crimes is hardly the point.

They were, for all intents and purposes and as court testimony, depositions and records from diocesan files clearly shows, enablers and facilitators of heinous crimes perpetrated against innocent children.

Once they and their bishop knew of such behavior by rogue priests and did not call the police, they became participants in a conspiracy. From that point on, they were morally, if not criminally, responsible for any subsequent sexual abuse of children by those priests.

In the case of Frank DeLuca, who was granted early retirement by Bishop Mulvee, neither the people nor the bishop of Syracuse were told why DeLuca was granted early retirement.

Because of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People that was promulgated in 2002, Bishop Saltarelli told the succeeding bishop of Syracuse the real reasons for DeLuca’s early retirement.

However, in neither instance were the people warned and it was not until 2006, when DeLuca was arrested for the sexual abuse of a nephew, that Saltarelli published the names of known or credibly accused sexual predators among Wilmington’s diocesan clergy.

These “dedicated” priests – Cini, Lemon and Rebman – may “have served honorably” in some jobs during their ecclesiastical careers but that is irrelevant when compared with their horrific failures in protecting God’s children.

Any decent man would resign without waiting to be asked.

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