

February 12, 2004

Most Rev. Wilton D. Gregory, S.L.D.
Bishop of Belleville
President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington, DC 20017-1194

Dear Bishop Gregory,

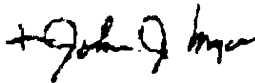
The undersigned Bishops and Diocesan Administrators of Region III, which includes the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, are opposed to any extension of the National Audit regarding the sexual abuse of minors by clergy until all the Bishops of the United States Catholic Conference have an opportunity to discuss this matter in executive session at our general meeting in November 2004. The undersigned Bishops and Diocesan Administrators also believe it advisable not to give any impression to the media that the numerous recommendations coming from the Office of Child and Youth Protection are in any way assured before they are discussed by the Bishops. The undersigned respectfully suggest that this letter be brought to the attention of the March meeting of the Administrative Committee of Bishops.

With fraternal best wishes we are


Sincerely yours in Christ,



His Eminence Justin Cardinal Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia



Most Rev. John J. Myers
Archbishop of Newark



Most Rev. Basil M. Schott
Archbishop of Pittsburgh, Byzantine Ruthenians

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Most Rev. Arthur J. Serratelli
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark

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Most Rev. John M. Smith
Bishop of Trenton

+ *Donald W. Trautman*

Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman
Bishop of Erie

+ *William J. Winter*

Most Rev. William J. Winter
Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburg

+ *Donald W. Wuerl*

Most Rev. Donald W. Wuerl
Bishop of Pittsburgh
Syriac Catholic Diocese

+ *Joseph Younan*

Most Rev. Joseph Younan
Bishop of Our Lady of Deliverance