

Bishop, not priest, should apologize

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To the editor:

I am a Catholic who can barely stand to stay part of my religion, as it has been hijacked by pedophiles and cover-up artists.

When will these bishops understand that they (and the priests they "supervise") are not above the law? These men are supposed to answer to God; however, they are also supposed to answer to the parishioners they serve (and who are supporting them with their money), and they are not above the law.

How dare Bishop William Lori "force" an apology from Father Madden of St. John's Parish, when Bishop Lori was supposed to be the one overseeing the finances of another pastor who is accused of stealing more than \$1 million of parishioners' funds (Greenwich Time news story, Sept. 1)?

Even after Father Madden and the bookkeeper reported problems on April 28, according to news reports, the bishop didn't meet with the accused pastor, Michael Jude Fay, until May 9, and an audit didn't start until May 22. Why would anyone in his right mind believe that firm controls were going to be in place with that kind of lax behavior, especially when this had evidently been going on for years? It's not as though the bishop shared his plans with Father Madden and the bookkeeper. The bishop should be the one begging parishioners' forgiveness.

If Father Madden hadn't gone external, this wouldn't be going to law enforcement or the public at all. The accused pastor would just be going into the proverbial "priest protection program."

Doesn't the diocese understand that we won't stand for this any more? It no longer is controlling the story.

I don't blame Father Madden for leaving the priesthood, and my thoughts and prayers are with him for a positive future. How sad that the church is losing him. He had parishioners' best interests at heart. It would be better if the church rid itself of the person who was truly at fault here.

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