

# Saint Brendan Parish

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Personal and Confidential to the Archbishop

October 29, 2003

Most Rev. Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap.  
Archdiocese of Boston  
2101 Commonwealth Avenue  
Brighton, Massachusetts 02135

Your Excellency,

*I am the priest that you have silenced for speaking the truth about the Talking About Touching program. I have worked with the Friars of Primitive Observance, who told me that you are a great bishop and that you would never accept a program like TAT (but you have!). I know some of the young priests in the Fall River diocese who speak highly of you, such as Fr. Roger Landry who describes you as a true "disciple of Christ". I now write to that disciple.*

*Let me explain a bit who I am. I entered the Seminary at St. John's right after graduating from Boston College in 1977. I found my vocation in a true supernatural event in my life. By that time I had already been involved for years in the pro-life cause. I have always been well-read, in church doctrine and in all the life issues. Because of my continued involvement I am known throughout the state by pro-life people.*

*As a priest I got all the more deeply involved in the life issues, and in the related issues. I debated Bill Baird on abortion, and Beth Winship (at a Unitarian Church in Wellesley) on condom distribution in public schools. I was arrested six times blocking the doors of abortion clinics. I have written a fair number of articles and op-eds on these issues. I have been on a number of television shows.*

*I mention all this so that you will have some idea as to why I take the position that I have on TAT. I have read all the relevant Vatican documents over and over again. I have seen parts of the TAT curriculum. I know what I am talking about when I say that this is an evil program. In contrast, Deacon Rusutto admitted to one of my parishioners three months ago that he had never read the relevant documents from the Sacred Congregation on Education and the*

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*Pontifical Council on the Family regarding sex education and parental rights.*

*The ironic thing is that I am considered to be one of the most conservative priests in the Archdiocese, surely not a "Vatican II priest"! Yet in this controversy I am the one who actually believes that the laity have a right to information on TAT. The operatives in the chancery have been doing their best to keep the truth on TAT from the people. And of course you have aided that effort by silencing me.*

*My silencing is of course an insult to me, especially considering the statement issued by the Archdiocese last Tuesday: "In spite of concerns that have been raised by some - the Archdiocese of Boston feels the program is very much within the Church's teaching and is an excellent program to promote the protection of children". This statement is a demonstrable falsehood.*

*This statement is particularly troubling in the light of your direct statements to several bishops, priests - including me, and laity - including my parishioners, that you were going to have TAT studied. What possible reason could there be for such a study if you have come to the conclusion that it is such an "excellent" program that is "very much within the Church's teaching"?*

*You know how Planned Parenthood is central in the promoting of the Culture of Death, yet they advertise TAT. I have included a copy of their web page. What is the possibility that what they propose is good for Catholics?*

*The laity is coming to the worse conclusions regarding this. I am amazed how the estimation of you among pro-life and pro-family Catholics has dropped so quickly since you were installed. I assume that you want to know the truth.*

*What sort of priests do you want? Do you want priest who believe that the word of God is superior to the plans of men. Do you want priests who are obedient to the Holy See? Or do you want priests who think that everything they say and do is changeable according to the position on any given day. If you want the former then why did you silence me? You certainly are not getting the truth from those promoting TAT.*

*Obediently yours,*

*Rev. David J. Mullen  
Pastor*