



ARCHDIOCESE OF _____
Office of the Archbishop

Telephone: _____
Facsimile: _____

April 24, 2012

Mr. Michael W. Ryan
1372 Brush Hill Road, C-301
Milton, MA 02186-2373

Dear Mr. Ryan:

Thank you for your letter of April 19¹¹ and the enclosed book, *Nonfeasance*. I received your communication yesterday; and, I have already read through most of the book. I applaud you for your persistence in trying to raise to the bishops a serious problem that affects our governance of the Churches entrusted to our care.

While it may only bring you some small consolation, let me assure you that I have implemented what you have tirelessly recommended in both of the dioceses where I have been privileged to serve: first in [name withheld] and now in [name withheld]. We use a system of tamper evident bags, with recorded serial numbers, signatures from handlers from the point of collection to the deposit. To implement in both dioceses, I used our auditors to train the pastors, bookkeepers, ushers and others involved along the "change of custody". You may not be surprised to learn that several parishes reported an immediate increase in reported offertory. One pastor even commented that a faithful usher disappeared and hasn't been seen since these procedures were implemented. Whenever I am in a parish when a collection is taken I make it a point to observe how the monies are secured. Of course, in the past more serious embezzlements underscored the need for better systems. As you point out in your book, the failure to adopt truly effective collection security measures is truly a "sin of omission."

Soon after arriving in [name withheld] I invited the Rev. [name withheld] of Washington State to address the clergy on areas of confidentiality, agency and fiduciary trust. He had similarly addressed the clergy of [name withheld]. This was also important in helping to secure the support of the pastors in this endeavor – allowing them to realize that such procedures rather than implying dishonesty on their part or on the part of their parishioners was as a "best practice" something that protected all involved. Also, key to the implementation of secure measures for cash contributions (also to be used for school cafeterias, carnivals and parish pot-lucks) is having in each parish an active finance committee.

I am also aware that these measures need to be constantly supervised – and when needed -updated. I thank you for your book. It will serve as a handy reference for me to cite to anyone who questions the policies I have implemented here in the Archdiocese of [name withheld].

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[signature of Archbishop]

Most Reverend _____
Archbishop of _____