

June 4, 2007 – LETTERS TO EDITOR, Stamford Advocate  
To the editor:

The editorial concerning the obvious lack of a properly formed conscience on the part of Michael Jude Fay, former pastor of St. John Roman Catholic Church in Darien, is truly on target (The Advocate, June 3).

I was shocked to read the news article (May 25) about his writing to some of his former parishioners soliciting money to pay his lawyers for his defense of his stealing parish funds of more than \$1 million. I thought: Here is another prominent person who obviously missed conscience-formation classes but mastered the art of self-entitlement.

Following that article, I did expect to read some letters from members of St. John's commenting on this outrageous request, but none appeared. Perhaps the concern voiced in the editorial that the public has become inured to unlawful and immoral behavior on the part of people in leadership roles is all too true.

We must hold ourselves and our leaders accountable for actions committed. Particularly in the role of a religious leader, we should expect the best example - to our tender children and to their parents and grandparents, as well as the community at large.

The public behavior displayed by former Pastor Fay is so destructive of the goodness of the priesthood and the people they try to spiritually serve. It has become more than obvious that he should never have been appointed to the diocesan Sexual Misconduct Review Board a few years ago and, furthermore, that the lack of financial accountability displayed by Michael Jude Fay was too-long ignored.

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