

June 10, 2009

Open letter to the Members of the ILR (International Lama Registry), the ILR Board of Directors and the ILR-SD.

This may end up a very long missive, but under the circumstances, I do believe that I am entitled to be heard ... If you choose to read and take heart, I am grateful for the time you will allow me. If the length of this is odious, I do apologize. I pray that this letter will be "posted" in its entirety on the ILR Website and not edited into a modified version.

What started out for me as an avenue of hope and an opportunity to re-connect with the social world, has in reality slid me back into the hole that I have been enforced to live the past 33 years.

The moment I first 'clicked' onto the picture of that beautiful little white Llama cria on the Internet, my heart told me this could be the forerunner to healing ... a means to once again be an active part of the social world. I reached out with every ounce of strength I had ... I purchased that (first) little Llama (The Abbot's Josephina) ... and a whole new world began to open for me once again. I didn't look back - I went forward and soon the entire monastery was drawn into these bravura little creatures of God.

I got involved ... maybe too fast ... but I was filled with a new sense of joy and a zeal that was immeasurable. My '**zeal**' ... sadly has been interpreted as "pride and power" ... so very far from the truth.

Speaking of truth, I have been accused of not being forthright about my '**background.**' Again, **not true.** When I was asked to run for the ILR Board of Directors, I requested a meeting with the Board in order that I might present them with a **historical and truthful** account of my past ... a past filled with hurt, pain **and** shame. I furnished the Board with a Website address that was being used against me. I also furnished them with a Website address that "Friends of the Abbey" had earlier created in an effort to defend me after so many years of silence.

The Board of Directors read the Websites ... and I was invited to participate in a Board-call meeting in which we talked at length about the circumstances. At that time, I freely volunteered to **REMOVE** myself as a Candidate for the ILR Board of Directors **and** from the ILR-SD Finance Committee. After a good deal of discussion, questions and answers, **the Board of Directors not only encouraged me not to withdraw, but asked that I remain on the ballot as a Candidate for the Board of Directors of the ILR.** The Board informed me that the "garbage" of the past, had no bearing on the ILR or my running for the Board of Directors.

Their thought, contrary to my warning them otherwise, was that it would *not* be an issue and that we should move forward in a positive manner. I took note of their counsel ... I went forward with my Candidacy.

I *do not blame* the Board of Directors for this ! They made a decision at the time they felt was *right*. That decision sadly, has now come back to haunt *me* and cause further hurt and division within the IRL.

For all this " *nonsense* " to become such a powerful force is beyond my comprehension. I try to be simple about the situation and I ask three specific questions: (1) Have I been put on trial and convicted by a Canonical or Ecclesiastical Court ? The answer is no. (2) Have I been arrested, put on trial and convicted by a civil court ? The answer is no. That being the case, why is it that a cliquy few have the right to *convict* me and pass judgment without the slightest opportunity for defense ? (3) Does any of this "garbage" of the past (20+ years old) have anything what so ever to do with the ILR or my involvement ? The Answer is no ... again. I thought this was America ... where one is *presumed innocent until proven guilty*. Should I not at the very least have the opportunity to meet my accusers face to face ... do I not get an opportunity to defend myself ? *NO !* I have been found culpable by means of gossip, innuendo, slander and half-truths; I have been *convicted* by means of modern technology ... the almighty Internet !

I have been down this course before. By now you would think I would be immune to the hurt and pain, but in my human weakness, there is always that moment of hope, that what you were facing was nothing more than a mere dream, and that soon, you would awaken and the pain would be gone. Again ... not a reality.

I *explicitly* would like those who have "opposed" me and signed the Re-Call petition against me to know *that I hold no ill feelings or animosity*; you simply reacted to a situation that you thought best; you had no knowledge of the proceeding nor did you have access to the truth. Had you been aware, you might very well have reacted in a different way. Again, I do not harbor ill feelings toward any of you ... you too, have been victims of a few very *cruel, evil* and *self-serving* individuals. "*Let he who is without sin cast the first stone ...*" Let us hope that someone doesn't get into *your* closet and do to you what they have done to me ... it is pretty painful.

I stood mute for 25 years before going public with the physical & sexual abuse I endured at the hands of distorted Priests. And because I stood silent, hundreds of innocent children and other young members of the Religious were brutally and violently abused ... their lives and their souls destroyed, their families forced into a world of disbelief.

That *is* a sad reality that I live with every day of my life. And now, because I went forward, because I opened the door to years of concealed abuse, still after *everything* that I stated has been exposed as *fact* (even though I was labeled an evil & vicious liar at the time) ... I am still battered... never to be exonerated in the eyes of the public.

I never once defended myself ... that was the *right* thing to do. But my lack of defense has provided credence to their offense ... and now, I am forced to chose once again. I am damned if I do - I am damned if I don't. This *is* a no-win situation for me.

One thing I can and will give Dale Peterson credit for: if he is attacking you - you know it and you know it is coming from him ... he is not afraid ... he does not hide behind obscurity ... I wish I could say the same about others.

I stated from the beginning of my Candidacy for the ILR Board of Directors, that I would represent the "**voice of the membership**" ... the members have used their voice. Therefore, it is not my decision to resign, but theirs ... I simply will comply. Therefore, you may redeem this communication as a formal Resignation of my position on the ILR Board of Directors ... effective immediately.

If there is anyone that might possibly be interested in the TRUTH ... please visit:
www.AbbeyDefense.com

To those who have supported me, I am at a loss for words ... I can't begin to articulate my heartfelt gratitude ! To those who found fault, I do so apologize if I have caused you any pain or distress, as that was never my intention; I do wish you would have had the opportunity to know the 'real' me, as I am *not* the monster as portrayed. I will miss the industry - I will miss seeing everyone - I will miss the many smiling faces of those as they wrap their arms around God's little gift ... most of all, I will miss the Llamas.

For what it is worth ... returning "*fun*" into the Llama industry (which I have heard so much about) can only be accomplished when pride, power and greed are removed from the equation !

One final note, I pray, now that I am no longer a part of, that you will at least give the Sisters involved in Monastic Fleece, an unbiased courtesy and the opportunity to remain involved and at shows ... not punishing them for me !

†Rev. Fr. Ryan St. Anne Scott, OSB