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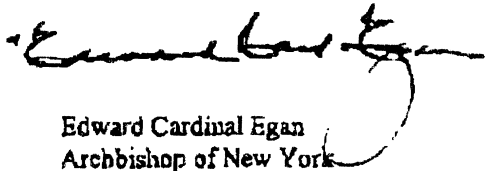
February 2, 2004

Your Excellency:

At the semi-annual meeting of the bishops and diocesan administrators of the State of New York (Region II) on January 28, 2004, the matter of extending the efforts of those who have been conducting the national audit regarding the sexual abuse of minors by clergy was discussed. We write to report that the undersigned bishops and diocesan administrators are not in favor of extending these efforts until after the matter has been discussed by all of the bishops of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at their general meeting in November. The undersigned bishops and diocesan administrators would further request that this letter be made known to the Administrative Board of the USCCB at its next meeting.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely in Christ,



Edward Cardinal Egan
Archbishop of New York

His Excellency
Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory
President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
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Washington, DC 20017-1194