

Fort Collins Colorado 7/22/02

## Youth Views

Topic: The Catholic Church

# Faith remains strong despite scandal

In response to Peggy Loonan's July 8 Soapbox, "Bishops have lost their moral authority," I say this: "Madam, you have much to research before writing your next editorial on the Catholic Church."

Had you bothered to do a little examining of Catholic Church doctrine, you would have known that no priest is ever completely removed from the priesthood. And in the event of his departure from the priesthood he — not in name, however — would still be known as a priest.

And as for the remark: "The so-called 'pro-life' Catholic Church," there is nothing "so-called" about it. We are a pro-life bunch, and we feel that abortion is not a fix for bad behavior on either the man, or woman's part — period.

The fact that these molestations had been happening over a 34-year period is not Cardinal Bernard Law's fault.

Chances are pretty good that he had no clue about what was

going on at the time, and had he, assuming that he was even the archbishop of Boston at the time, probably would have acted in a more severe way. However, 34 years later, after one person speaks up, dislodging the stone that dislodged

the boulder, that caused the whole rock slide, the good cardinal might very well be suspicious of all of the 130 reports.

In any case, I would like to know if you were in his shoes, trying your level best to please the two sides that are divided on this issue, how you would handle it? Because I, and so many of my fellow Catholics whose faith is stronger now than it ever was do to the flood of criticisms that has



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come due to these acts, think that under the circumstances, he has done a pretty good job.

And you must give the man some credit; if he was not competent at what he was doing, then he would not be archbishop of a diocese, much less a cardinal.

Catholic values, however, are still the exact same things that they were this time last year: good and decent. And nothing has changed, we still believe the same things that we always have, and for that matter always will.

In conclusion, the Catholic Church has apologized for its priests' actions, and now since most of us aren't directly or personally involved with the issue, it really is not any of our business what Cardinal Law does from here. Not that we shouldn't care, but this stuff gets uncommonly old extremely fast.

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