

Thy Kingdom Come!

Rome, January 18, 2020

Dear fathers and brothers in Christ,

As you know, some of Fernando Martínez Suárez's victims and their mothers have expressed in writing that my participation in the general chapter would cause them great suffering. I spoke with the families in Cancun when we received the accusations of abuse, and I represented the Congregation of the priest who abused their daughters. I understand how they might experience my presence in the general chapter as a new wound.

After considering this in prayer in these days of spiritual exercises, I have opted not to participate in the general chapter.

Before God, I can affirm that I never covered up these abuses; indeed, they became common knowledge. It was the then general director who sent me to Cancun to meet with the families of the victims. I met with some of the mothers of the girls that had reported abuse, and after a few days I had a larger open meeting with the parents of the families in the school.

I became territorial director in 1992. I had no awareness of Fernando Martínez Suárez's history. As everyone knows, in those years the general director made the decisions regarding processes and movements of personnel.

I hope with all my heart that my petition to be dispensed from participating in the general chapter may alleviate at least some of the victims' suffering, and that the Congregation may reach out to them and contribute to healing their wounds.

I ask my brothers who had elected me to represent them for their understanding, and I ask all of you for your prayers. I am also praying very much for you.

Fr. Eloy Bedia, LC