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Letters to the Editor

Church doesn't get it

On Dec. 6 at the Kane County Courthouse in Geneva, I was on the third floor in Judge Keith Brown's courtroom. I sat amazed. It was not like reading it in the paper or hearing it secondhand.

An attorney was there representing me, my family and thousands of people from the Rockford Diocese. We are clients. We pay her for this work. Another attorney was there to represent the two girls abused by Mark Campobello. I watched the transaction and felt profoundly sad.

I realized my attorney, Ellen Lynch, was not representing me, my family or others. Not according to our wishes, nor according to the promises and statements of our bishop -- Bishop Thomas Doran -- on openness and transparency. We are not abiding by "The Charter" our American bishops agreed to: to "heal and protect the children."

My heart broke again as I watched the process. I wondered, "How in the world did we, as a church, get here?" I felt embarrassed and ashamed. After all the Catholic Church has been through on this issue, we still are not getting it.

We, as a church, are not acting properly. We are not responding with our well-taught hearts. Our hands have not reached out to the victims/survivors or their families. We use lawyers now instead of what we know is right and what Jesus taught and modeled for us -- to go to our brothers and sisters in love and ask their forgiveness of our transgressions.

Somehow we have lost our way.

Mary Lu O'Halloran, Geneva

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