



**ST. MARY
CATHOLIC
FAITH
COMMUNITY**

The Honorable C. William Foust
Circuit Court Judge—Branch 14
City/County Building – Room 207
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Madison, WI 53703-3343

Dear Judge Foust,

I am writing this letter in behalf of Brian Burke, whom I have known while pastor of St. Sebastian Parish and as neighbor for thirteen years. I am aware that Brian has entered a guilty plea to a felony charge of misconduct in office and a misdemeanor charge of obstructing an officer. I am also aware that functioning in the complex political environment is not always easy. While not seeking to excuse any wrong Brian may have done, I also know that he is basically a good human being, a caring husband and father, and a man who has a good sense of moral values. I have seen and felt the pain of Brian and his family as they walked through this difficult time together.

The Burkes not only regularly attend church services but have been actively involved in other facets of parish life, some of which was related to the day school at St. Sebastian which all three of their daughters attended. While still living in the Washington Heights area, I frequently met Brian and his wife Patricia when our exercise routes overlapped. Their daughters are exemplary as students and are actively involved in religious formation as well as social and athletic activities, some of which have been sponsored by the parish.

Brian was extremely helpful prior to the last presidential election when I asked him to review and critique materials provided by our Catholic bishops to encourage Catholics to be good citizens and to set forth guiding values for voters to consider before going to the polls. With his background in politics, he was able make sure there was not even a hint of bias in favor of any specific candidate. Brian spent considerable time on this project and was instrumental in getting John Huebscher, representative of Wisconsin bishops in Madison, to speak at an adult formation program.

Although I have assumed a new pastorate as of this past June, I have had ongoing contact with the Burkes and certainly do not hesitate to encourage whatever leniency can be shown at his upcoming sentencing. If needed, I can now be contacted at St. Mary's Parish as listed at the bottom of the stationery.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Schramm
Rev. Charles H. Schramm, ThM, MSW

