

This blog is written out of obligation to truth. It is with great sorrow and pain that I must disassociate myself from a dear friend and a bishop of the Catholic Church. I want to explain why I have removed all mention of Bishop Kamal Bathish from my websites and why I feel it is necessary to make a public statement. Over the years I have introduced him to thousands of people through personal contact and my websites. I feel a moral obligation to publicly cut off all contact with him and disassociate myself from him.

It came to my attention through a number of sources that there were moral problems that are irreconcilable with our continued association. One woman who claimed personal and intimate knowledge of Kamal Bathish wrote to me asking why I would have his picture and praise on my website -- did I not know of his sexual scandals? A priest in Jerusalem had warned me of certain moral problems that should cause me second thoughts about my friendship with Bishop Kamal. There are many more; too numerous to mention.

According to a book written by David Yallop, [*The Power and the Glory*](#) (New York, NY: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 2007) there are serious sexual problems. The book covers these matters from pages 331-335. It goes into some detail of Bishop Kamal's relationship with women who came to stay in the Latin Patriarchate Convent. The book states, "The Latin Patriarch, Michel Sabbah, consistently refused over many years to meet Pauline Cunningham [Sister Marie Paul], despite the fact that there were at least four other women who had suffered sexual abuse from Bishop Bathish, and the bishop had admitted the truth of Pauline's allegations. He made this confession to a commission of enquiry set up by the Patriarch" (pg. 335).

Also the book states, "Eventually, after a criminal trial that started in March 1997 allegedly sexual exploitation and 'constructive rape' the patriarchate of Jerusalem was found guilty and Pauline was rewarded 240,000 shekels, about £25,000. The trial ended in 2003" (pgs. 334-335).

I was also made aware of a document on the internet entitled [*Beyond Belief*](#) that is easily accessed through a simple Google search. It is based on the book by Yallop and contains most if not all of the content in the book.

My first reaction was one of skepticism and loyalty to my friend. On September 10, 2008 I sent him an e-mail and requested he tell me if this was true or not. I gave him the opportunity to refute the charges. He never wrote back and I've never heard from him since, though prior to this request of mine we had corresponded by e-mail and phone almost weekly.

Unfortunately, based on all the above, and with great pain in our hearts but resolution in our souls, I had to draw certain conclusions for my own reputation and the protection of so many other people who had trusted me. I decided I must publicly disassociate myself from him with a notice to all those who have been introduced to him through myself. If anyone can prove the preponderance of evidence as incorrect, I would love to hear from them.