



JESUITS
West

USA West Province
Provincial Office
P.O. Box 86010
Portland, OR 97286-0010

503. 226 6977
Jesuitswest.org

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we read the news of results of the Grand Jury deliberations on sexual abuse by priests in Pennsylvania, we feel disgust, anger, disappointment, and disillusion among other emotions. The numbers are staggering. It can feel that there is no end to this sinful abuse of authority by priests. It is behavior which is as far from Christ-like as we can imagine. We know now that this behavior springs from illness worthy of treatment as a disease, requiring highly complex, specialized treatment, focused on behavioral change, accountability, and relapse prevention.

We pray for victims there and everywhere, for their healing from these terrible wounds, and for hope for us all.

Meanwhile, I want to assure you that Jesuits West has a no tolerance policy. We have had policies in place since 2002, the time when this issue reached a crescendo in our Church, which require that we follow a strict protocol. In the situation when a complaint of sexual abuse of a minor is received, the Provincial takes appropriate steps in the removal of a Jesuit from ministry while an investigation ensues.

Every report of child abuse by a Jesuit is subject to a mandated report to law enforcement and investigation to the degree possible. It is then presented to our Review Board. Our Review Board, composed of competent lay persons in the fields of psychology, law enforcement, education, and other administration, assesses an allegation and advises on the disposition of cases in internal investigations, advises on the response to the victim, and makes recommendations to the Provincial regarding the disposition of the Jesuit. No Jesuit who poses a risk for abuse is allowed to continue in ministry.

If you or anyone you know has felt victimized by a Jesuit at any time please contact Mary Pat Panighetti, Victims Advocate, at 408-893-8398 or mpanighetti@jesuits.org. She will reach out to you and speak with you, and we will then engage our protocols.

We pray for forgiveness and atonement for the harm inflicted upon some of the most innocent members of our society, and for the deep sin against God and the Church.

With prayers,

Scott Santarosa, S.J.
Provincial