



December 6, 2013

Mr. Michael Foreman

Overland Park, Kansas

Dear Mr. Foreman:

I am very sorry to hear of your experience with Fr. Finian Meis. It is inexcusable that a member of the clergy, religious order, a church staff member or volunteer should ever harm a child in any manner. My responsibility as Archbishop is to do everything that is reasonably possible to provide safe environments for all children who are entrusted to our care for the sake of faith formation, education, extracurricular recreation, or child care. I am firmly committed to enforcement of our safe environment policy which provides for training, awareness, best practices, reporting and investigation of any allegations of abuse or misbehavior. I am also firmly committed to investigating any allegation of abuse of a minor made against any member of the clergy or any church employee or volunteer no matter the age of the incident or the current age of the victim.

I appreciate your willingness to bring to our attention your claims against Finian Meis. We take these issues very seriously and investigate them as thoroughly as possible according to the provisions of the Archdiocesan policy. Your candid conversations with Fr. John Riley, Special Auditor Currie Myers, and your meeting with the Independent Review Board have been helpful in understanding your allegation and arriving at a conclusion regarding this matter. We take the additional precaution of reporting allegations to local law enforcement as well.

Based on my careful review of the extensive report provided to me by the Independent Review Board, I agree with their conclusion that we are unable to substantiate the credibility of your claims against Finian Meis. I have forwarded the findings of our Independent Review Board to the Superior of the Capuchin Province of Mid-America, Br. Christopher Poprakov, for review and consideration. The province has its own procedures for reviewing claims against its members and will review the information I have forwarded to them; I presume they will communicate with you directly.

I do realize that my conclusion is not what you had hoped to receive, but my sincere prayer and hope is that despite this conclusion you are able, through God's abundant and unfailing grace, to experience healing and peace in your life.

Sincerely yours in Jesus, the Lord of Life,

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann  
Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas