



DIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY-ST. JOSEPH

August 5, 2015

Dear Mr. *Redacted*

I am so sorry for what happened to you, and I realize that no words are likely to heal your wounds. As a small step towards reconciliation, I apologize on behalf of all the priests of this Diocese and all the members of our Catholic Church for the terrible hurt you have suffered at the hands of someone entrusted with your spiritual care. I truly regret how deeply this has impacted your life and the lives of your family members and friends, as well as your relationship with the Church.

I thank you for having the courage to come forward and share your story. Your actions have led to permanent changes in the way that our Diocese handles matters related to abuse. We are working hard to prevent sexual abuse by screening, educating and supervising all priests, employees and volunteers who have contact with children and youth. We immediately report every credible allegation of abuse to law enforcement authorities and remove any person credibly accused from public ministry. We will continue to work, every day, to create a safe environment where our children are loved and cared for in our parishes, schools and in every ministry of our Diocese.

We offer assistance to victims and survivors of sexual abuse by church personnel through support and personal care, resources and counseling. If you would like assistance, please contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator, Kim Shirk, at 816.392.0011 or shirk@diocesekcsj.org. Kim is qualified to provide resources and to coordinate your services, and she is dedicated to help you in your healing journey.

We will be offering a series of Healing Services beginning this August and would like to extend a personal invitation to you. The Office of Child and Youth Protection (OCYP) will be supporting these services, along with a local parish. We welcome you to attend one or more of these sessions. If you are interested in attending, have questions, or have a request for special needs accommodations for the session, please contact Kim Shirk as listed above. An independent counselor will be available during and after each session, along with a resource table staffed by the OCYP.

Sincerely yours in Jesus, the Lord of Life,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph F. Naumann".

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann, D.D.
Apostolic Administrator

Come to me, all who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

THE CATHOLIC CENTER

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