



The Roman Catholic
Diocese of Phoenix

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Ray Riehle
6830 Antelope Rd Ste. H
Citrus Heights, CA 95621

Dear Mr. Riehle,

I am writing regarding your letter sent to Bishop Olmsted, which he received on December 7th, 2018. The bishop read it and is grateful that you are willing to express your concerns.

The outcome of the recent meeting of the United States bishops is concerning for many in the Church. Yet, despite inaction on the national level, Bishop Olmsted and the Diocese of Phoenix are pushing forward with reform in every way available to us. We are working hard to understand the depths of the issues involved in this crisis. Over the last decade we have implemented strong protection policies for children and vulnerable adults. However, as we become more aware of the gravity of the crisis, we are reevaluating what we have in place and looking to strengthen those policies. We are also reviewing failings of other dioceses and consulting with experts to inform our own work. While it would be preferable to have a universal and standardize practice for all dioceses in the United States, we are continuing the reform in Phoenix with or without national consensus.

As you suggest, in the Diocese of Phoenix we have mandatory intensive training addressing the issues of abuse and harassment for all employees and volunteers of the diocese which includes yearly renewals. This includes an emphasis on the moral obligation to report to the police any suspicion of abuse and the necessary contact information to do so. This information is also posted in every employee break room in the diocese. Moreover, the training walks through the need to address boundary violation, which can be a warning sign of abuse, and report such violation to supervisors who are required to correct the situation or report it to the police if necessary. Additionally, we have in place, and actively turn to, a lay review board for any accusation of abuse made against a cleric.

Because no system is perfect, we are diligently working to improve what we have in place and count on lay involvement to aid us in this effort at every level. The Diocese of Phoenix will continue to post updates on our efforts to address this crisis on the website www.fidelity.dphx.org. Thank you again for your concern. I ask you to pray for Bishop Olmsted, all our nations' bishops, and especially victims of abuse as the Church continues to walk through this time of darkness. Christ is the light that will bring us truth and freedom.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Kevin Grinditch
Priest Assistant to the Bishop