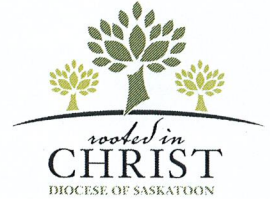




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August 15, 2018

Dear Priests, Deacons, and Parish Life Directors:

Devastating revelations of decades of sexual abuse of children and vulnerable persons by clergy in the United States (newly released Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report and recent revelations about Cardinal McCarrick), and of some of the bishops' failure to report and act on the abuse, have deeply shocked and saddened our faith communities.

I urge you to join me in prayer for the victims of sexual abuse, and to recommit ourselves to the protection of all vulnerable people in every situation.


I trust that you will be able to respond to questions about these situations, how they have been addressed in Canada, and what is being done to ensure this does not happen here in our own diocese.

You can find resources about the Canadian response to sexual abuse by clergy here: <http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/media-room/files/1476-diocesan-resources-from-the-ccb-concerning-sexual-abuse> (French version at <http://www.cccb.ca/site/frc/salle-de-presse/dossiers/1476-ressources-de-la-cecc-pour-les-dioceses-concernant-les-abus-sexuels>)

The CCCB website reports how following a lengthy period of serious reflection, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops published ***From Pain to Hope***, a report by the Ad Hoc Committee on Child Sexual Abuse released in 1992. Following the revision of that publication, the CCCB in 2007 published a **Document of Orientations** to assist Catholic dioceses in Canada in updating their diocesan protocols for the prevention of sexual abuse.

As you know, extensive work has also been undertaken in recent decades to ensure the human and spiritual formation provided to our seminarians includes a healthy understanding of sexuality and celibacy.

In the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, the Covenant of Care and the Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Protocol (2012) have been established and implemented to create safe and respectful church communities and healthy ministerial relationships, to protect children, youth and vulnerable adults from abuse, and to ensure that allegations of sexual

 In all things we are *rooted in Christ*,
in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.

abuse and other misconduct are handled responsibly and transparently. The Covenant of Care documents can be found at: <https://rcdos.ca/covenant-care>

On this Feast Day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us turn to our Mother in prayer, asking for her intercession in helping us to humbly persevere in Christ's mission, while always protecting the little ones who are entrusted to us.

Blessings to you, sincerely,

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✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen
Bishop of Saskatoon