



# Archdiocese of Louisville

247 COLLEGE STREET • FIFTH FLOOR • LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40202  
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July 23, 2002

Dear Father:

The issue of sexual abuse of children by clergy has affected all of us who serve as ministers to God's people. In response to the current crisis facing the Church, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the document **CHARTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**. Since we are responsible for the spiritual welfare of the faithful, we bishops have committed ourselves to an early implementation of the Charter.

In accord with the Charter, certain restrictions follow the admission or substantiation of any instance of sexual abuse of a minor. This letter serves to provide you with formal notification of these restrictions as resulting from your own case.

- 1) You are removed from ministry and no longer able to accept any ministry position.
- 2) So long as you remain a priest, you are to lead a life of prayer and penance. You are not to celebrate Mass publicly, to wear clerical garb, or present yourself as a priest.

Provisions in canon law provide a means for you to request withdrawal from the clerical state and a dispensation from the obligations of Holy Orders. Should you wish to consider this option I encourage you to be in contact with Father Mark Spalding, our Judicial Vicar, or other canonical counsel. If I find it necessary to request your dismissal from the clerical state, I will notify you of this decision and promise to protect your right to due process.

So long as you remain a priest, the Archdiocese of Louisville will continue to provide you with appropriate compensation and support (cf. *Unassigned Priests in the clergy compensation manual*). Furthermore, I will gladly provide you with counseling support for your own healing and well being.

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The Holy See has been informed of the Charter and the issues related to its implementation. Should the Holy See offer insights, recommendations, or make other provision applicable to your particular situation. I will inform you at once.

I ask you to join me in prayer for victims of abuse, for their families, and for the accused. I believe we are taking the right steps to effect a just resolution to this crisis. My fervent hope is that all might find healing and hope in Christ.

With prayerful best wishes,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Handwritten signature of Thomas P. Creagh, consisting of the letters 'TCK' in a cursive, stylized font.

Archbishop of Louisville

The Reverend Thomas P. Creagh  
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