



Diocese of Charlotte

**Office of Catholic Schools**

**Linda L. Cherry**  
Superintendent of Schools

February 2, 2009

Dear Parents, Students, Teachers and Staff of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School:

This letter is being written as a follow-up to the letter that was sent to you on September 5, 2008. In that letter you were informed that a former Bishop McGuinness student filed a report with the diocese alleging an incident of sexual misconduct involving a Bishop McGuinness teacher seven years ago in the teacher's home. The teacher was suspended immediately, pending further investigation.

The investigation by the Review Board of the Diocese of Charlotte has been completed and a recommendation was forwarded to Bishop Peter Jugis. Following the recommendation, the teacher has been relieved of all teaching duties and is no longer in the employ of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Prior to the allegation the teacher had completed the sexual abuse awareness training, "Protecting God's Children," and had been cleared via a criminal background check that was conducted by the diocese.

As required by North Carolina law, the Diocese reported the alleged incident to the Department of Social Services immediately after receiving the report. The diocese will comply and cooperate fully with any investigation by the civil authorities.

The Diocese of Charlotte is committed to providing a safe environment for all people, especially the young and vulnerable. In 2002 the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People. The charter addresses the Catholic Church's commitment to respond effectively, appropriately and compassionately to cases of abuse of minors by all diocesan personnel.

The charter and the Policy of the Diocese of Charlotte Concerning Ministry-Related Sexual Misconduct by Church Personnel cover requirements for reporting abuse, screening of clergy, religious, seminarians and lay employees and volunteers; procedures when allegations are made; education; media and communications; and sanctions for non-compliance. All diocesan personnel receive a copy of the policy, acknowledge its receipt and are required to comply with the policy in its entirety.

Area pastors, school board members and faculty have been notified of this decision. We wanted you to be aware of this decision, prior to it becoming public and ask that you keep everyone in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Linda L. Cherry  
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. George L. Repass  
Principal, Bishop McGuinness