



DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA  
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Dear Parishioners of St. Bernard's Parish,

I learned this past week that a priest, Patrick J. McCabe, who has been accused of sexual abuse of minors, was assigned to your parish in the early 1980's. Although to my knowledge the diocese has not directly received any allegations against this priest, but possibly he might have harmed some young children during his brief time there.

I am writing to ask anyone who might have been mistreated by this priest to come forward so that the Church might apologize and ask forgiveness as well as offer help to overcome any damage done. Past clergy sexual abuse of minors is a great shame for the Church that we all love. But it is something that the Church must face and deal with in compassion and understanding for the innocent victims. Therefore I urge any victim to contact Julie Sparacio at our Child and Youth Protection Office (566-3308) or her cell phone (631-3289).

Over the last fifteen years the Church here and throughout the United States has established policies and procedures to insure such crimes do not happen again against the most vulnerable, our children. The Bishops of the United States have adopted a Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People that guides each Diocese in dealing with and preventing this crime. Each year an outside auditing firm checks each Diocese to see that it has followed the Charter.

Many steps have been taken here in this Diocese through the Office of Child and Youth Protection to insure that our children are safe when in our Church. Our annual audits have demonstrated that this Diocese is in strict conformity with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

I ask all to pray for all the victims of clergy sexual abuse so that healing might occur for them and their faith restored.

Assuring of my prayers at this time, I am

Your Brother and Servant in the Lord,

Most Reverend Daniel F. Walsh  
Bishop of Santa Rosa.