

# Child Protection



October 27, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

As Provincial of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph, I write to you to acknowledge the horror of the recent revelations of child sexual abuse in the Church and the betrayal of trust that they represent. Unfortunately, our Province has not been exempt from this scourge. In the past, friars from our Province have harmed innocent children. On behalf of the Province, I ask your forgiveness for the sins of those individual friars and for any time the Province failed to act effectively to protect innocent children.

I assure you that no friar of our Province with a credible allegation of child sexual abuse lodged against him is in public ministry anywhere. The most contemporary allegations against friars of the Province concern events in 1999 and 2001. The friars in those two cases were subject to criminal prosecution and permanently removed from public ministry. All other known allegations concern events before 1990. The Province has undertaken significant efforts to

ensure the safety of children and is committed to offering help and counselling to assist the healing of those who have been hurt. These efforts are summarized in an attachment to this letter.

However, there is always the need for continued vigilance and improvement. In consultation with my Council and upon the recommendation of the Province's Child Protection Review Board, I have determined that the Province of St. Joseph will release the names of all friars who have been permanently removed from public ministry because of a credible allegation of child sexual abuse as well as those friars for whom an allegation of child sexual abuse was established after their death or departure from the Province. Our hope is that the release of these names will offer consolation to those who have been harmed and encourage others to come forward to receive help. The names will be posted on our Provincial website (<http://opeast.org/about/child-protection/allegations/>) on November 8th.

During November, I have asked all of our friars to pray in a special way for the healing of victims, for the continued protection of children, and for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the meeting of U.S. Bishops in Baltimore on November 12-14. I invite you to join us in these intentions.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Very Rev. Kenneth R. Letoile, O.P.*

Very Rev. Kenneth R. Letoile, O.P.  
Prior Provincial

## **Prayer for Healing**

*God of endless love,  
ever caring, ever strong,  
always present, always just:  
You gave your only Son  
to save us by the blood of his cross.*

*Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,  
join to your own suffering  
the pain of all who have been hurt  
in body, mind, and spirit  
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.*

*Hear our cries as we agonize  
over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.  
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,  
soothe restless hearts with hope,  
steady shaken spirits with faith:  
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,  
enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.*

*Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,  
heal your people's wounds  
and transform our brokenness.  
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,  
so that we may act with justice  
and find peace in you.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

(Source: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayer-for-healing-victims-of-abuse.cfm>))

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