



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



March 14, 2014

To: School Parents and Alumni of Notre Dame Catholic School, Wichita Falls, Texas

Dear Friends,

As Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, I have the sad duty to inform you about an allegation of sexual abuse by a priest who served at Notre Dame Catholic School many years ago. Rev. Hugh John Sutton served as a teacher and chaplain at Notre Dame from 1984 to 1992. Father Sutton was ordained for the Diocese of Pueblo, Colorado. He left Wichita Falls and the Diocese of Fort Worth in 1992 and died in 2004. Civil authorities have been notified of this claim.

Allegations of inappropriate sexual conduct are always deeply troubling, and this allegation against Father Sutton was found to have a semblance of truth. This weekend, members of my staff and I will be visiting the parishes served by Notre Dame during the years Father Sutton was there, to make an announcement of the allegation and to invite others who may have been abused to contact me or Judy Locke, the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, to report abuse.

If anyone reading this letter has been abused by Father Hugh John Sutton or any priest, employee, or volunteer in service of the Church, I ask that you come forward and report it. If you are a family member of a former student at Notre Dame who was abused by Father Sutton, I urge you to contact us at the diocese so that we can be of help. The diocesan staff is ready and willing to help. The telephone number for Judy Locke, the Victim Assistance Coordinator (817-560-2452, ext. 201), can be found on the diocesan website along with the number for the Diocesan Sexual Abuse Hotline (817-560-2452 ext. 900). I ask that we all continue to pray for victims of sexual abuse and their families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael F. Olson

Most Rev. Michael F. Olson, STD
Bishop of Fort Worth

THE CATHOLIC CENTER