

Greetings from all of us here at Mater Dolorosa. As you begin this Holy Season of Lent, we pray that God will fill you with his love and compassion.

We write you today with heavy hearts. Last week, we received a letter from Fr. Joseph Moons, C.P., the Provincial Superior of Holy Cross Province, informing us that there has been an allegation of sexual abuse involving a female minor against Fr. Arthur Carrillo, C.P. The alleged incident is reported to date back to the early 1970s.

As you may be aware, Fr. Arthur was assigned here at Mater Dolorosa from 1970 through 1975 and then again as Retreat Director from 1987 through 1994. The Diocese of San Diego reported the allegation to law enforcement and the Province is cooperating with law enforcement in its investigation. Fr. Arthur was immediately removed from all public ministry upon receipt of the allegation. The alleged victim is receiving pastoral support from both the Passionists and the diocese where the incident was reported.

It surely brings home to us personally the tragedy of the sexual abuse crisis. The abuse of children and youth by clergy, and the clear failure of the Church's initial response to those abuses, have wounded far too many. The pain and suffering carried individually by victim-survivors, is compounded by the damage done to all members of the faith community. We ask for your prayers, for all those impacted by this situation and all those suffering throughout our Church and communities.

We ask anyone with concerns, questions or relevant information to contact:

Mr. Keith Zekind at the Provincial Office in Park Ridge, IL. He can

Mr. Keith Zornig at the Provincial Office in Park Ridge, IL. He can be reached at 847-518-8844 (extension 303) or via email at keith@cppo.org and/or your local law enforcement agency.

As all of us continue to struggle with this painful situation in our Church, may we keep each other in our prayers.

May the Passion of Jesus Christ be always in our hearts.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Cunningham, O.F.S.
Retreat Center Director

Fr. Michael Higgins, C.P.
Director of Passionist Programs

Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center
700 N Sunnyside Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024
626.355.7188