

January 15, 2019

Dear Alumni,

Central to Jesuit education is the commitment to *Cura Personalis*, the care of the individual. This permeates and inspires all that we do in and out of the classroom as we work to form boys into Men for Others. We take these responsibilities very seriously.

The last several months have been particularly difficult for all of us in the Church as we have learned of additional scandals at various levels of the hierarchy, along with stories of abuse that make us cringe with shame and outrage. We express our deepest sorrow for any and all actions which have victimized those entrusted to our care in the Church. These events have caused us to review our own policies to ensure that we protect and care for our students in the best ways possible.

Today at Regis High School we continue to work to create a safe environment for our students and the rest of our community. All new hires undergo a thorough criminal background check and must participate in substantial training on proper behavioral boundaries and identifying signs of abuse. We have recently updated our policies on abuse and harassment to reflect best practices, and all faculty and staff will be required to sign off on these policies annually. Following advice of professionals in this area, our policies give specific examples of forbidden behaviors which can make us all uncomfortable. You can view our updated policies by clicking [here](#).

Our policies, and our education through Guidance classes in particular, are designed to not only protect our students from abuse, but also to help them make good decisions in their own relationships.

Fifteen years ago Regis President Fr. Tom McClain, SJ, sent a letter to all current parents and alumni to inform them that an allegation of abuse had been made against two former faculty members, dating back to the 1970's. Further investigation led to the conclusion that one allegation was credible and one was not. All indications are that Fr. McClain and the Board followed all the proper protocols, including notifying the District Attorney. Fr. McClain's letter also invited others with any stories of abuse to come forward.

In the years since then, a few other allegations have been made—all referring to events decades ago—and the school and the Jesuit Province have dealt with each of these in a manner that was both thorough and pastoral. No abuse is acceptable, and we are horrified and distressed by each one of these allegations.

Earlier today the Northeast Province of the Society of Jesus released a list of all the Jesuits with credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor since 1950. There are four men on that list whose allegations pertain to incidents while at Regis. There is also one man who is on that list who worked at Regis at one time and has an allegation against him from some later time and place. You can read the letter from the Provincial, Fr. Cecero, SJ, [here](#).

The individuals who were once assigned to Regis High School are listed below. The duration of their assignment(s) at Regis is listed in parentheses.

John L. Farrand (1957-1961)	Deceased 2003
John Gallen (1957-1960)	Deceased 2011
Edward D. Horgan (1954-57; 1963-70)	Deceased 1994
James Kuntz (1983-84; 1988-94)	Left Jesuits 2012
Robert Voelkle (1969-1980)	Left Jesuits 1985, Deceased 2016

While not meeting the standards to be included on the Province's list, Regis is also aware of allegations that have been made against the following:

Gerald R. Rippon (1967-83; 1984-85)	Deceased 1986
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In light of today's climate in the Church, as Fr. McClain did fifteen years ago, we again would invite anyone who has been subject to abuse here at Regis, or knows someone who was, to come forward so we can work to bring healing and closure. If you have been abused by a Jesuit, or if you believe that someone you know has been, you are urged to advise the USA Northeast Province by contacting the province's victim advocate, Ms. Kristin Austin, at 443-370-6357 or by calling 443-921-1310. If the abuse did not involve a Jesuit, please feel free to contact Fr. Lahart directly at [dlahart@regis.org](mailto:dlahart@regis.org) or at 646-657-2054. We also encourage you to reach out to the appropriate civil authorities in the location in which the abuse took place.

The gift of a Regis education is priceless. We have a sacred duty to care for all members of our community, most especially our students. We take that duty seriously, and continue to work to make Regis High School exemplary in every way.

Please pray for our Regis community and join us in prayer for all victims of abuse both in and out of the Church.

Sincerely,

Rev. Daniel Lahart, SJ  
President

Mr. Pete Labbat '83  
Chairman of the Board

