

September 4, 2018

Dear Members of the Lumen Christi High School Family,

In light of the revelations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy, the cover-up of these sins by Catholic bishops, and recent issues at Dimond High School, we believe you deserve a public statement from those to whom you entrust the Catholic education and daily welfare of your children.

We are fully committed to the safety of every student at Lumen Christi Catholic High School. Assurance of that safety demands we promise you three things: accountability, transparency, and zero tolerance for sexual abuse.

Accountability: Lumen Christi will continue to fully comply with the policies set forth by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' [Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People \("Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal"\)](#) and the Archdiocese of Anchorage's [Code of Pastoral Conduct and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#). With the spirit of these documents in mind, while at Lumen Christi, all clergy, candidates for ordination, archdiocesan and parish employees, and volunteers working with minors or vulnerable adults will be required to:

1. Commit to the two-person rule, which says that no adult may ever be in a closed-door setting with a single minor. A third person must always be present, with the exception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the confessional;
2. Pass a thorough criminal background check before beginning ministry and every five years thereafter;
3. Complete safe environment training before beginning ministry and every two years thereafter.

Transparency: In the event of an abuse allegation, we will simultaneously pursue two goals: full, immediate reporting to the proper authorities, and protection of the affected student's privacy. In accordance with Alaska State law ([A.S. 47.17](#)), school teachers, administrative staff members, and athletic coaches of both public and private schools are mandated reporters. Additionally, all archdiocesan clergy, employees, and volunteers are ethically mandated to report any abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult directly to either the Anchorage Police Department or the Office of Child Protective Services (with whom the report may be filed anonymously). Once the police have completed their investigation, the Principal, in conjunction with the Archdiocese's Office of Safe Environment, may conduct an additional investigation. In consultation with law enforcement, all school and archdiocesan policies and procedures will be followed regarding notification of students and parents regarding harm, potential harm, and results of any additional investigation in a manner that ensures the safety of students and protects the privacy of victims.

Zero Tolerance: We personally promise you that we will remain vigilant in our common concern for the safety and well-being of every student entrusted into our care. Should you have

any reason to suspect abuse or otherwise inappropriate contact with a minor or vulnerable adult, please contact the Anchorage Police Department immediately and thereafter notify the Principal. We are devoted to promoting a Christ-like environment at Lumen Christi, and we will act decisively to protect our children. Accordingly, if you have questions or concerns about anything you have read in this letter, please contact any or all of us at the email addresses listed below.

This is your school. Please continue to be actively involved and vigilant, so that Lumen Christi Catholic High School may continue to be a safe haven and home to every student who walks through its doors.

Sincerely,

Fr. Tom Lilly
Pastor

tlilly@stbenedictsak.com

Brian Ross
Principal

bross@lumenchristiak.com

Gregory Gallagher
School Board Chair

greggallagher@gmail.com

Anchorage Police Department

For emergencies, please dial 9-1-1

For non-emergencies, please dial 907-786-8900