



August 22, 2018  
Queenship of Mary

Dear Brothers and Friends in the Lord,

*The Peace of Christ!*

The searing grand jury report on clergy abuse issued last week in Pennsylvania is heartbreaking, as it documents the failures of the Church and its ministers to protect and care for the most vulnerable of the People of God, our children. Although more recent cases of abuse are rare, given the changes in training and reporting that have been implemented since the Dallas Charter, there remains a great deal of pain and damage that has been done because of the failure of bishops, provincials, and clergy to safeguard and protect children.

We will continue to work to rectify past mistakes, hold accountable anyone who has committed criminal acts of abuse, and provide what justice and healing we can to victims. None of this is easy; none of it will be resolved with a statement. The Church rightly calls for action on the part of its leaders and clergy. We must continue to address issues of abuse and prevention with urgency and transparency.

Within this Province, we have policies to guide the training of our members in maintaining safe environments for children and vulnerable adults. Any allegations of abuse or improper behavior are reported to civil authorities, investigated promptly, and handled with great care, so as not to repeat past errors. Please continue to support these efforts wholeheartedly.

This past Monday, Pope Francis exhorted the whole Church to repentance for the harm that has been done by clergy sexual abuse. In our Province, I am asking every Jesuit community to set aside a dedicated time for penitential prayer, to pray for those many men and women who have suffered so egregiously at the hands of clergy and the lack of transparency on the part of the leadership in the Church.

May Mary our Mother intercede for us sinners and help our Church to foster reconciliation with those whom we have harmed so gravely.

*In Corde Jesu,*

John J. Cecero, S.J.  
Provincial

2018/23