

SOCIETY OF JESUS



OREGON PROVINCE

Letter of Apology

As the Provincial of the Oregon Province of the Society of Jesus, I write to express, however inadequately, my heartfelt apology to you and your loved ones:

I apologize for our actions: some of my Jesuit brothers did you a horrific wrong. They harmed you physically, emotionally and, more seriously, at a very deep level of your heart and soul. They are responsible for their actions that hurt you and other innocent children. You and all whom they victimized were in no way responsible for what happened. Also, the Oregon Province of the Society of Jesus takes responsibility for its part in the abuse. Speaking for every Jesuit – I am profoundly sorry for this and apologize.

Thank you for the courage of coming forth and speaking of your experience. Your willingness to tell your story has done a great service for all children in the Church.

It is my pledge that the above words be matched by actions on our part, knowing the deeper work of our contrition and repentance has only begun.

I want to be available to you or groups of survivors simply to listen to your story. If you are open to a personal conversation with me either by phone or in person please contact Colleen Wagner, a member of my staff, to arrange a meeting. Her toll free phone is 1-855-595-1940.

Knowing that the ultimate healing of your hearts and lives lies with the One who has shared your pain and known your suffering and anguish—the compassionate God of Jesus—I pray that God bring you deeper peace, and we Jesuits learn from our mistakes and sins.

With a promise of prayer and asking God's blessings on you and your loved ones,

Patrick J. Lee, S.J.
Provincial of the Oregon Province