



St. Patrick Catholic Church

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January 6, 2017

Dear Parishioners, School Families, and Staff:

In an effort to be transparent, I recently sent a letter out to school families related to a safety concern. Immediately, I received feedback indicating a level of anxiety. Originally, I had intended to schedule a meeting for all parish and school families to address questions. However, the more I heard, the more I understood that much of this anxiety was not related to the original matter, but to unresolved historical concerns. I have become convinced that it is important for me to pause and continue to listen to you in order to develop a thoughtful comprehensive plan to address all the needs of this community regarding these deep wounds.

I am not clear on what this plan will look like at this point. In discerning the components of this process, I am first looking to our community. In formulating the plan, I intend, with the help of my staff, to seek out the opinions and advice of many of our parish and school leaders. I invite you to partner with me in this process by sharing your thoughts and concerns. Additionally, I will partner with Bishop Johnston and his leadership team, the Office of Child and Youth Protection (OCYP), and the Catholic Schools Office (CSO). My commitment to you is to have a first step scheduled and communicated within the next two weeks.

I will continue to keep you updated as these plans develop. As your parish leader, my hope is to help to increase confidence and trust within our faith community. This can only occur when we each feel safe. I ask for your prayers as we embark on this journey of healing. This will not be an easy path, but it is a path I commit to leading and I hope you will join me. The benefit will come in the end as we bring light to areas of darkness. This community has been through some very difficult times and survived because of the strength each of you bring. Let us continue to rely on this strength now as together we process the best path of restoring each other and our community at large.

In Christ,

Fr. Robert H. Stewart