



Office of the Bishop

August 21, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Once again, terrible allegations of sexual abuse have surfaced in the Church. Hearing these stories, saddens and upsets me, as I am sure it does you. *"If one member suffers, we all suffer."* (1 Cor 12.26)

This reinforces all the more, the need to be constantly vigilant and resolutely determined to follow our Safe Environment Policy and Procedures.

<http://www.nelsondiocese.org/diocesan-information/catholic-pastoral-centre-offices/safe-environment.html>)

I renew my commitment to you to take all accusations seriously, to investigate and deal with them in the appropriate manner. Those hurt by the Church need to be heard, helped to heal and suitably compensated for their harm.

Let us continue to pray that the scourge of abuse will be eradicated from the Church and no child or vulnerable persons will ever be harmed again. I encourage you to set aside time to fast and pray as requested by our Holy Father Francis.

May Mary, Mother of the Church and St. Joseph, guide and protector of youth, intercede on our behalf for the good of all people.

Sincerely in Christ our Lord,

+ Gregory J Bittman
Bishop of Nelson