

Dear Saint Benedict Parish and Lumen Christi Catholic School Family Members,

It is with deep sorrow and a contrite heart that I write to you, to apologize for the sins of my brother priests and to recommit to maintaining a safe environment within our parish and school wherein we respect the dignity of all and are particularly vigilant in protecting the young and vulnerable from all forms of abuse.

Bishop Andrew Bellisario, C.M., Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Anchorage, today released on the website of the Archdiocese the names of 13 priests and one layman credibly accused of sexual misconduct with minors and/or vulnerable adults within the Archdiocese of Anchorage from its founding in 1966 to the present. This release is the culmination of the work of the Independent Commission, initially chartered by Archbishop Etienne in October, 2018. Four of those priests were assigned to Saint Benedict Parish at one time or another. None served in our school.

I echo Bishop Bellisario's heartfelt apology to those abused at the hands of clergy in whom our children and vulnerable adults had placed their trust. My heart aches for all those impacted by the sinful and egregious violation of these predators who put their own selfish interests above the dignity of those who were entrusted into their care. If you or someone you know has been abused, I encourage you to report the incident(s) to law enforcement. If helpful, I stand ready to assist you in this reporting as does the Archdiocese of Anchorage Victim's Assistance Coordinator, Mrs. Jenny Michaelson (jmichaelson@caa-ak.org /297-7786).

May those who have sinned atone for their misconduct and may our Lord and Blessed Mother continue to bring healing to all who are deeply hurting.

In Christ's peace,

Fr. Tom Lilly

Pastor