



July 12, 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

As God's holy people, we know that we are called to embrace a life of virtue and to turn away from sin. Over the past decade we have been shamed over the revelations of sinful behavior on the part of clergy, religious and even some laity in this archdiocese which has been so harmful to many of our children. At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council it was suggested that I inform you once again about what we, as a church, are doing in order to assist victims and protect children now and in the future. It is a task that we have undertaken with all seriousness. Our accomplishments in this respect, even though they cannot in any way compensate for the harm done in the past, still give us hope for a future where all God's children are loved and cared for as Jesus would.

I encourage you to take time to review this delineation of our present policies and accomplishments. Please join me in praying that our penance, balanced by a firm purpose of amendment, will truly bring about healing and reconciliation among all those who have been aggrieved in this matter. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

/s/ + John G. Vlazny

Most Rev. John G. Vlazny
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon