



**Diocese of Ogdensburg**

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*Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley*

December 7, 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Over two years ago, you first wrote to me about the pain caused by your hurtful childhood interactions with Father Skurski, a religious order priest who served in our diocese. At that time I expressed our concern for your well-being, and we provided assistance to you by helping to pay for counseling. In a subsequent meeting last April, we had a productive conversation about your continued healing and the progress you were making. At that time, I again expressed my willingness to assist you.

I continue to be concerned about your well-being and healing. I know that we cannot restore what you have lost, but we do want to help you to continue to move forward and find peace. You may have read about the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program offered by the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Brooklyn. These programs primarily seek to bring about reconciliation between our Church and those who have suffered as the result of improper conduct of clergy.

While we do not have the resources or the circumstances that would allow us to offer the same kind of program offered by the Archdiocese or the Diocese of Brooklyn, we do desire to help you heal and find peace. It has always been our desire to help victims of clergy child abuse and we hope our attempt to help you will bring you healing.

We have asked our attorney, Keith Caughlin, Esq., to contact you to attempt to resolve your claim. If you are represented by an attorney, please let me know, and Mr. Coughlin will contact your attorney. We anticipate Mr. Caughlin will contact you or your attorney in late December of January.

While Mr. Caughlin will handle the legal resolution of your claim, I am willing to meet with you or talk to you by phone. My purpose would be to again offer you an apology for your suffering and to offer any spiritual healing our talking might provide. If you wish to meet or speak to me, please contact my secretary, Linda Ross at 315-393-2920, to arrange a meeting or phone call.

I again extend the offer for assistance with counseling or other types of assistance. This is independent of any resolution of your claim. Such assistance may be obtained by contacting our Victims' Assistance Coordinator, Terrianne Yanulavich at 518-483-3261 or via email at [terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com).

I apologize for any pain or suffering cause by the improper behavior of any priest of our diocese. My desire is to help you. You are in my thoughts and prayers. May God bless and heal you.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

*Terry R. LaValley*

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg

/glk

cc: Keith Caughlin, Esq.  
Father Christopher Carrara