



805 NORTSHORE DRIVE SW • KNOXVILLE, TN 37919-7551 • (865) 584-3307 • FAX (865) 584-7538

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE

Dear Warren,

I am truly sorry for all you have suffered and for the difficult process of the criminal trials that hopefully will lead to justice being done for you.

I understand that you have been troubled by the possibility that there might be other victims of Bill Casey out there who are not receiving the help they need. That has been a concern for me as well. After you had courageously made us aware of the abuse you had experienced, I met with Bill Casey to ask him about these allegations. He admitted that there was credibility to your accounts. He also indicated that it was possible that there could have been others. I am not aware of any specific names or numbers of victims. I am confused by any comments that the Assistant District Attorney may have made to that effect. It is not based upon any conversations I, Deacon Sean Smith or Fr. David Boettner have had with him, other than to share that Casey indicated that it was possible that there are other victims. Bill Casey was not clear in regards to specific information about other potential victims.

Because Bill Casey indicated that it was possible that there were other victims, I had a letter read at all of the Sunday Masses in every parish in the Diocese and posted it on our website. The letter detailed what had occurred with Bill Casey and encouraged any other victims to contact law enforcement officials and also an independent Victims Assistance Coordinator. I held a press conference and asked the print and television media to help me reach out to those who might not hear the letter read in the parishes or visit the website. I also directed my staff to conduct listening and healing sessions in each area of the Diocese where Casey had served to help the parishioners who were hurting from the news and to encourage anyone who had been hurt to come forward.

As I write this letter to you Warren, we have not been made aware of any other victims. I know that the healing process is slow and confusing and so I remain open and eager to assist anyone who may have been a victim of abuse. It has been my constant intent since we first learned of your abuse to be transparent and to hold Bill Casey accountable for his actions.

I cannot erase what has happened to you, but I hope that this letter may bring you some comfort and I want to thank you again for your courage and desire to help others. You remain in my daily prayers.

In Christ,

Most Reverend Richard F. Stika
Bishop of Knoxville