



## MUNDELEIN SEMINARY

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September 25, 2018

Most Rev. David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of Grand Rapids  
360 Division Avenue S.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-4539

Dear Bishop Walkowiak,

Greetings from Mundelein Seminary.

In light of recent sad and disturbing news concerning abuses in the Church, some of it related to actions involving seminarians and their formators, I am writing to update you on how we have been addressing the abuse crisis with our seminarians here at Mundelein. I will also describe the various protocols we have in place for students to confidentially report any actions which they feel represent misconduct or inappropriate behavior.

All new and returning students were (re)apprised of our policy on sexual misbehavior, about which I spoke both during Orientation sessions and in my opening rector's address. Our student handbook states, in part:

If a seminarian feels subject in any way to sexual harassment or any sexually inappropriate behavior towards him by a faculty or staff member, or a fellow seminarian, there are multiple channels available for him to address the action. They include the following: reporting to your Spiritual Director, Cam Director, Formation Advisor, Rector, Vice Rector, Vocation Director, or one of the Seminary Administrators. The seminarian may also reach out beyond the seminary to the Vicars for Priests for the Archdiocese of Chicago—Msgr. Dennis Lyle or Rev. Jeremy Thomas (312-534-7051).

If a seminarian feels his safety is in imminent danger, he may contact Mundelein Seminary Public Safety (847-970-4815), or Mundelein Village Police by dialing 911. In all cases, strict confidentiality will be preserved.

It is important that the seminarian does not feel limited to any one particular line of communication, hence the multiple available channels, including recourse to the archdiocesan Vicars for Priests (who may be contacted independently of seminary administration).

In the event of an accusation, a seminarian's vocation director and bishop would also be notified. A discrete investigation of the accusation would be carried out by myself, in conjunction with the Vice Rector for Formation (Fr. Brian Welter) and assistance from the Vicars for Priests (who would also help to ascertain whether any legal action should be taken, in the case of clergy misconduct). During the time that the investigation is being carried out, the seminary faculty or staff member may be asked to refrain from his or her teaching or formation advising responsibilities.

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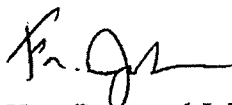
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In the wake of the letter published by Archbishop Viganó, I met with the entire seminary student body to allow them to voice their concerns. I addressed their questions and reaffirmed our commitment to their safety and the quality of their formation. Throughout this entire time, I have found the spirit and resolve of the men to be exemplary. While they are certainly facing significant challenges, they remain committed to prayer and study, with an even deeper focus on their vocation and mission.

Please know that it is a blessing and a privilege to have your men with us in formation. Should you have any questions, recommendations, or concerns whatsoever, do not hesitate to contact me at any time. Be assured of my prayers for you and I kindly ask for yours, as well.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. J. Kartje', written in a cursive style.

Very Reverend John F. Kartje  
Rector/President

cc: Fr. Ronald Hutchinson

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