



# YOU DESERVE **ALL** THE FACTS

REPARATIONS PROGRAM

INDEPENDENT FILE REVIEW

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Dear Sisters & Brothers,

As you may recall, last February the Catholic Dioceses of Colorado announced two initiatives to support the continued healing process for those who were sexually abused as minors by parish priests. Those two initiatives – an independent reparations and reconciliation program and an independent file review – will now be fully implemented in the coming weeks and months.

We have spent the last few decades working to address the issue of sex abuse and to make our churches among the safest spaces for children, but we recognize that pain caused by past abuse still needs to be continually addressed. We know that for survivors what has been taken from them can never be fully restored, but we hope these initiatives can provide some measure of justice, validation and healing for them and their families.

## REPARATIONS AND RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

This program will be officially opened in the coming days, and information for those wishing to participate will be available on our diocesan websites. A couple of key points for you to know:

- The program will be independently run by a team of nationally recognized administrators and overseen by a local oversight committee of lay people from around the state.
- The administrators will evaluate claims made against diocesan priests, and determine a reparation offer to the victim-survivor.
- Participation by the individuals is voluntary and the offer can always be rejected, but the dioceses are bound to abide by the administrators' decisions.
- Funding for the program will come from diocesan reserves and assets, with no money coming from donations to parishes, ministries or schools.

## INDEPENDENT FILE REVIEW

As part of an agreement with the Attorney General of Colorado, an independent file review led by former U.S. Attorney Robert Troyer is in its final stages, and a public report of his findings will soon be published. We believe this will provide a transparent accounting of all past substantiated allegations and a fair evaluation of how the dioceses responded. The final report for each diocese will include:

- An analysis of the diocese's current policies and procedures to prevent and report abuse.
- A review of how the diocese handled past allegations, and if they correctly reported the allegation to local authorities according to the applicable state laws at the time.
- A list of all diocesan priests with one or more substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of a minor, along with a summary of the incidents and how they were handled.

As we said in February, there will no doubt be many painful moments in the coming months as we shine the bright light of transparency on the Church's history related to the sexual abuse of minors, but we ask that you join us in prayer for all victims of sexual abuse, and that we maintain our trust in Jesus who alone can provide true healing and peace.

Sincerely,



Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila

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