



Office of the Bishop

November 18, 2019

To my Brothers in Christ,

As our Diocese moves forward to fulfill our new vision, *One Family: Restored in Christ – Equipped for Mission*, I will soon reach out to parishioners of our diocese to ask for counsel regarding a great need for healing. I ask for your support in this effort by making an announcement after Masses this weekend (Nov. 23/24) and by posting the short announcement (attached) in your bulletin, on website, etc.

Diocesan leadership, in collaboration with lay faithful, has established *Journey to Bethany*, a program designed to address a variety of wounds and broaden awareness of healing resources within our diocese. The initial focus of *Journey to Bethany* is the healing and restoration of those within our diocese who have been harmed by clergy sexual abuse.

To carry out our vision and ensure the success of *Journey to Bethany*, it is important to understand the feelings and needs of our community surrounding the subject of clergy sexual abuse. To that end, we will distribute a survey to a random selection of parishioners throughout the diocese. This **email survey** includes a series of questions for parishioners to identify the state of their relationship with our diocese and detail their level of confidence in our effectiveness to lead, educate and care for our parishioners. Survey responses will also help identify the healing services and resources most needed.

Following the completion of the parishioner survey, a second and third action will occur to complete our gathering of data. We will distribute an additional survey for priests (to provide their feelings and ideas). The Office of Child and Youth Protection will reach out to direct victims through an interview process (to ensure that their feelings and healing needs are understood).

Our intention of these surveys and interviews is to assess the current depth of suffering from clergy sexual abuse, and to provide a baseline that will allow us to measure our progress over time. We will then dedicate ourselves to greater efforts to heal and help victims, their families and our community at large.

I ask you, Father, to please encourage your parishioners to watch their inboxes for the subject line “**Bishop Johnston’s Healing Our Family Survey**”. Ask those who receive our survey to share their reflections and honest assessment of our diocese’s past and current conduct, as well as thoughts for services needed through *Journey to Bethany*. You can assure your parishioners that the survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete and is confidential and anonymous. Those who are not randomly selected to complete the survey will have an opportunity to hear the results and provide their input at scheduled presentations. Aggregated findings from the survey will be shared across the diocese as part of our continued accountability and to help us forge a path toward healing in a manner that restores faith and trust in our parishioners’ hearts.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph

Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph

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