

**3/28/2013**

**STATEMENT BY THE WISCONSIN PROVINCE OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS  
(JESUITS) ON PENDING LEGAL CASE CONCERNING ST. FRANCIS MISSION  
SCHOOL ON THE ROSEBUD RESERVATION IN SOUTH DAKOTA**

The Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus (Province) is aware that plaintiffs in a pending legal case that includes the Province concerning St. Francis Mission School on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota have filed a third amended complaint. The legal response of the Province to the third amended complaint will be made in due course. Out of respect for the legal process, the Province does not otherwise comment on pending legal cases.

The Province deeply regrets any instance of proven sexual abuse by one of our members and we remain deeply committed to justice and healing for all involved

Since 2002, the Wisconsin Province has committed itself to the following measures to prevent and/or address sexual abuse:

- Training and updating all members on creating safe environments for ministry including strategies for recognizing, reporting, and preventing efforts to abuse children or vulnerable adults.
- Maintaining and enforcing strict behavioral guidelines for ministry with children or vulnerable adults for all Jesuits and in all our sponsored ministries.
- Creating and maintaining a procedure for receiving, investigating, and responding to allegations or reports of abuse or other misconduct by Jesuits, currently or in the past. This includes reporting all allegations or reports of criminal behavior to the appropriate civil authority and cooperating with any subsequent investigations.
- Engaging a qualified lay person to receive allegations and reports
- Carefully supervising and restricting members who have substantiated allegation of abuse.
- Providing pastoral, spiritual, and therapeutic care to victims of abuse by Jesuits.
- Engaging a Review Board of lay professionals to regularly provide advice and monitoring of these commitments.
- Submitting to periodic audits and accreditation by a professional risk reduction organization.

These measures are in conformity with civil and church law and with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and the companion Essential Norms of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Uniform standards to assure compliance with those norms have been adopted by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) and approved by Praesidium, Inc. a risk management firm that audits and accredits religious orders to ensure state-of-the-art prevention and response protocols.

We encourage anyone who has been abused by a Jesuit in South Dakota to contact the appropriate law enforcement or child protection agency, no matter what amount of time has passed since the abuse. In addition, we encourage victims to contact Ms. Marjorie O'Dea, the Province Director of the Office of Victim Advocacy for the Wisconsin Province at 773-975-6363 or by mail to her attention at P.O. Box 080288, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208-8004. Further information is available at

<http://www.jesuitpartners.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=6899>