

July 30, 2018

Dear St. Charles Family:

As part of St. Charles' ongoing effort to provide our students, parents, and staff with information concerning our school community, I wish to inform you that I was contacted recently by a former St. Charles student alleging that he was abused in the early 2000s by the Rev. Msgr. Thomas Bennett. Upon receipt of this complaint, I reported the allegation promptly to authorities. I have subsequently been informed that a complaint has been filed in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, and St. Charles has been named as a defendant in the case.

Msgr. Bennett taught and served the St. Charles community and the Diocese of Columbus for more than 40 years, up until his death in 2008. After reviewing Diocesan records and school files, Diocesan officials have informed me that there is no record of any allegation of sexual abuse or misconduct involving Msgr. Bennett during his years of service to the Church.

Because this matter is in litigation, any questions you have concerning the allegations asserted in the case should be directed to our legal counsel, Rob Schuler and Chris Weber of the law firm Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter. Thank you in advance for your understanding in this regard.

Please know that your child's safety is our first priority. St. Charles and the Office of Catholic Schools are committed to providing a safe and secure environment to all persons within our school. Established programs and guidelines are in place to offer assistance and protection to anyone who feels endangered or threatened.

Students, parents, teachers, and administrators are instructed to notify immediately local law enforcement and St. Charles administration if made aware of any form of abuse, either within or beyond our school environment, both in the present and in the past. School and Diocesan officials will continue the long standing policy and practice of reporting all information regarding these matters to authorities. Persons who believe they need pastoral or clinical care to begin or continue the process of healing may also contact the Diocesan Victims' Assistance Coordinator at 1-866-448-0217 or helpisavailable@columbuscatholic.org.

Sincerely,

James R. Lower
Principal