



May 11, 2021

Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne
Archbishop of Seattle
710 9th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-2017

Dear Archbishop Etienne:

Thank you for the March 24, 2021 in person meeting and your follow up letter of May 1, 2021. It is clear we share the stated goals of protecting our children, providing justice to survivors of clergy abuse and a strong desire to bring healing to our Church community.

When we created *Heal Our Church* almost three years ago, we were aware of the policies and initiatives of the Seattle Archdiocese with respect to clergy abuse and acknowledge in our documents they are significant. However, our founding was predicated on a sincere belief that the programs you itemized in your letter were – and remain – inadequate to bring the fullness of justice and healing to victims, prevent future crimes and address issues within the Church that we all deeply love.

As you know, both nationally and internationally, there is robust discussion of the work remaining to be done in our Church community if we are to heal and restore trust in the Church hierarchy. We are grateful and encouraged by your letter where you said, “This list of our efforts does not mean we have done enough.” We hope that you do not misinterpret our call for the establishment of a lay led Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a repudiation of the work thus far by the Archdiocese; rather we hope you will see it as a seed from which, as you put it, “something more will grow.”

While we believe the *Heal Our Church* journey is far from its conclusion, you have given us reason to believe that you may wish to walk along with us when you stated, “Finally, I acknowledge your request to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and to give serious consideration to additional file review.” Although, as reiterated at our meeting *Heal Our Church* will be moving ahead with our goals as outlined in our Statement of Belief, we remain open to meaningful discourse and timely collaboration and welcome any invitation for future discussion.

We do fear however, that delay and miscommunication could thwart our mutual desire to work together where we can on these issues of critical importance to the Church. A well-known and proven approach to engagement could be through a mediation, solution driven process. We envision a meeting where, with the assistance of an agreed upon mediator, true areas of common agreement could be achieved in a spirit of compromise and respect. We are confident that a mutually acceptable mediator could prove pivotal in avoiding the harm of intransigence among people of faith and goodwill. We hope instead to focus on our shared faith and our shared kinship with, as Pope Francis proclaimed in *Fratelli Tutti*, “each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all.”

Upon reflection, if you believe this offer to engage in mediated discussions might prove fruitful, please advise as we would wholeheartedly welcome your partnership. We ask that you respond before Pentecost.

We share your words of blessing that the Holy Spirit continues to guide us in our faith journey during this holy season of Pentecost and brings to us to a shared vision for healing in our Church.

Respectfully yours,

Judge Terrance Carroll (Ret.)

Colleen Kinerk



John McKay