



+ May 27, 2021

Dear Colleen, John and Terry,

I received your May 11th letter and, frankly, was surprised. I already indicated a willingness to listen and hear your vision for the commission. In fact, in my last letter I indicated that we should meet again in person after we launched the Pastoral Plan. Your offer to set up a mediation seems completely unnecessary and counterproductive to fostering true dialogue.

As Catholics, we are members of one Church. As we discussed before, we share common ground. I am willing to listen to your ideas and input, just as I am open to hearing the ideas and input from all Catholics. As part of our recent Pastoral Planning effort, we engaged with 10,000 Catholics through listening sessions and the Catholic Survey.

You stated that "Heal Our Church will be moving ahead with our goals as outlined." The ways in which we believe we can achieve common goals are clearly different, which is why I agreed to continue dialog with you. My hope is that you will be walking along *with the Church* as we continue to address abuse, healing and protection of all God's people.

While you have indicated that you plan to move ahead with your Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we will continue moving ahead with our own efforts in the broader Church of Western Washington, which include listening, pastoral planning, and further enhancing our outreach to survivors. Please know that we are not dragging our feet, as some near future announcements will indicate. Instead, we are actively listening, and your input is received in concert with many other voices and needs, all of which we are doing our best to balance and address.

I suggest we continue our dialog, and I will ask Angela to be in contact with you to arrange a follow up meeting this summer. As always, I remain,

In the Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Paul D. Etienne'.

Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
Archbishop of Seattle