



## ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF REGINA OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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July 26, 2019

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ of the Archdiocese of Regina,

Warm greetings in the Lord.

Just over two weeks ago, I learned that in an unverified email of July 7, 2019, sent to the Papal Nuncio, I was being accused of serious sexual misconduct dating back to when I served as a priest in the Archdiocese many years ago. A few days ago, a blind copy version of that email started being circulated widely to clergy and religious communities in Saskatchewan. Some of you will have received or heard about that email; hence the public character of this letter. An investigation under the guidance of the Bishop of Prince Albert has now determined that there was no substance to the allegations; that the accusatory statements were not found to be true; that there was no trace that the purported victim actually exists; and that the email appears to be fraudulent. The matter is now being referred to the RCMP should they wish to investigate the source of the emails further. The Bishop of Prince Albert's Decree and Explanatory Note detailing this will be made public on Monday.

As a church we have a protocol for serious allegations against an archbishop, and those involved sought to follow that protocol in this instance. I am grateful that the matter was investigated, and think it appropriate that it is now being brought to the attention of the RCMP. I will gladly cooperate in any way requested with any further investigation.

While this is not an experience I would wish on anyone, the Scriptures remind us that God is able to turn any situation into good. Living through these last days, I have sought to keep that ever in mind.

I want to take this opportunity to ask for your prayers, for this situation, for our Archdiocese, and for all victims of sexual abuse and misconduct. I also want to ask for your continued support as we remain committed to walking with victims of clergy sexual abuse, and respond compassionately and respectfully in a timely manner to anyone coming forward who relates that they have been abused. Please do not allow this false allegation to create a sense of suspicion about any other allegation that might come forward.

To those of you who are victims of clergy sexual abuse, please know that this unfortunate episode will not deter us from the important work of listening to you, accompanying you, and striving to become more transparent and accountable as church.

Grace and peace,

+ Donald Bolen  
Archdiocese of Regina