Dear Regis Community,

I write to acknowledge a profound sin committed by dozens of bishops and priests of the Catholic Church and to express my horror in response to the sexual abuse crisis and pervasive cover up in the Catholic Church. As a Jesuit, Catholic university, Regis unequivocally condemns the criminal actions of the clergy and others who perpetrated and enabled the victimization of so many innocent children. As I shared in my State of the University Address last week, the hierarchy of the church must change, and we must cleanse the church of arrogant clericalism. Bishops, priests and consecrated persons must, with all of the People of God, find an immediate solution to ensure sexual abuse ends.

This fall we will explore how Regis can contribute to the rebuilding of trust within the Catholic community. We will host a discussion open to current students, faculty and staff, to address this crisis and decide how our university community should respond. Regis is a Jesuit work of the Catholic Church, but we are first and foremost a university. Therefore, we must be an example of how honest, civil discourse deepens our understanding of each other and our world. Our Jesuit, Catholic values are instructive here as a way to proceed.

I also want to be clear that Regis will continue to respond swiftly and decisively to any allegations of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct. Regis is committed to a respectful campus culture that has clear policies, clear reporting structures and clear lines of accountability for preventing and addressing any form of abuse. Additional information can be found here. Further, any Regis community members in pain because of this crisis may contact the Title IX Office, University Ministry, the Office of Counseling and Personal Development for students, and employees may seek help through Human Resources EAP benefits.

Any steps taken do not change the fact that so many have suffered for decades as the result of this unconscionable abuse and cover up. Yet, there are many good people - priests and lay persons - who are advocating for accountability and an end to the abuse. Let me point you to a letter from our Provincial, Ronald A. Mercier, S.J., found here.

The process of healing and regaining trust begins by listening to you. Details on this discussion will be announced shortly. I hope you will join this gathering and our community as we pray for survivors' healing and recovery.
Gratefully,

John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.
President