



Dear Members of the University Community,

In October, Fr. Pilarz appointed a Task Force on Healing, Reconciliation and Hope in response to the release of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report detailing sexual abuse of children by Catholic priests and failures of Church leaders to protect those children. On behalf of the committee's 13 members, among whom are students, staff, administrators, and faculty members, we wish to notify you that the work of the task force is underway. With a topic as sensitive and complex as this, we are doing our best to proceed humbly and thoughtfully, keeping before us those who have suffered, and contemplating how we might contribute as a Catholic and Jesuit university to healing, reconciliation, and hope for those survivors and their families, for our region, and for the Church.

What emerged from our first conversations was a conviction that a necessary first step would be to listen and to gather feedback from the campus community. Such feedback will help to inform task force initiatives and future programming. To that end we would like to mention several activities about which you will receive more details in the coming days.

We are currently developing a survey to be distributed to the campus community to collect insights and recommendations for how the task force may best focus its efforts. This survey is intended to be a confidential way to offer suggestions and prioritize topics.

In addition to a survey tool, we want to provide opportunities for different campus constituencies to offer feedback in person and through dialogue with peers. We have therefore scheduled two sessions for students and faculty/staff to share ideas with task force members.

Feedback sessions have been scheduled for the following dates:

- A student session (Royal Input) has been scheduled for Friday, November 16, 2018 at 5:30PM in Collegiate Hall (Redington Hall). This event will be advertised widely on campus.
- A session for faculty and staff has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 12:00PM in the Rose Room (Brennan 509). Additional details and RSVP information for this event will be announced in the coming days.

In addition, we have begun to plan two events for the Spring semester, one with a more pastoral emphasis, providing an opportunity for members of the community to express themselves and to listen, to share, and to dialogue with one another about their thoughts, feelings, and reactions to the abuse crisis. The other event will have a more academic/educational focus, addressing the effects of sexual abuse and discussing potential paths toward healing. Input from the feedback sessions and survey will be key for determining the shape of those Spring semester events.

Finally, in an effort to enhance awareness and communication about our activities, the task force is in the process of creating a web page that will contain an inventory of important resources and will keep the community apprised of future events.

We are in the process of creating a specific task force email account hrhtaskforce@scranton.edu to facilitate direct communication between the task force and the campus community in the future.

November 7, 2018

The task force is grateful to our University community for your support, patience, encouragement and prayers and we look forward to engaging with you as we move forward in this work together.

Warm Wishes for a Blessed Thanksgiving holiday.

Gerianne Barber, Director of the Counseling Training Center

Julia Betti, Undergraduate Student

Steven Browning, Graduate Student

Julie Schumacher Cohen, Director of Community and Government Relations

Christian Krokus, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Department Chair of Theology, Co-Chair

Debra Pellegrino, Ed.D., Dean of the Panuska College of Professional Studies

Lauren Rivera, J.D., Assistant Vice President for Student Life/Dean of Students

James Roberts, Ph.D., Professor and Department Chair of Sociology/Criminal Justice

Patrick Rogers, S.J., Executive Director of the Jesuit Center

Rose Sebastianelli, Ph.D., Professor of Operations and Information Management

Patricia Tetreault, Vice President for Human Resources, Co-Chair

Patrick Tully, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Department Chair of Philosophy

Helen Wolf, Ph.D., Executive Director of Campus Ministries