



December 4, 2020

Dear Confreres and Friends of the Abbey,

A story appeared in the local paper that features allegations of sexual abuse against Norbertines that supposedly occurred in the late 1980s. These allegations were reported immediately to civil authorities and third-party investigators interviewed all names forwarded to them, reviewed files, and deemed the accusations to be not credible.

This story is tragic for the Lindstrom family and friends. I have expressed condolences and sympathy personally to the Lindstrom family and continue to pray for them and all victims of abuse. Many are saddened, including me, because of the great harm caused by abuse especially by members of our community. On behalf of the Norbertine community, I humbly ask for your forgiveness.

This tragic news brings much pain to the local community and to our Norbertine community. The pain continues to be felt by victims, families of victims, members of our church community, and all who continue to deal with this sad history in our Church. We know many are angry with the Church and our Norbertine community, and we hear your anger. It motivates us to be better Norbertines, living up to the higher standard of our call.

Our community believes that the protection of children is the highest priority. For the last two decades, we have worked towards rebuilding trust within the local community and acknowledging shortcomings. The Norbertines stand with accusers, victims and survivors, and those accused, working with local authorities to verify the credibility of each accusation.

Along with the Diocese of Green Bay, the Norbertines have sponsored an annual healing retreat for victims and their families. As Abbot, I've met with victims and supported requests for counseling. In June 2019, the Norbertine community released to the public a list of Norbertines with credible allegations after Praesidum, Inc. reviewed personnel files from the abbey. Since 2007, St. Norbert Abbey has been accredited as a religious community meeting the national standards for the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

If anyone has an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor, please call the local police and/or Child Protective Services at 920-448-6035. If the allegation involves any Norbertine, call local police first, then please contact the St. Norbert Abbey Office for Safe Environment at 920-337-4311

I ask for your prayers for all victims and survivors of sexual abuse.

In Christ, through Mary and Norbert,

Rt. Rev. Dane Radecki, O. Praem.  
Abbot – St. Norbert Abbey