



## Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection

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22 July 2019

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OFFICE OF THE  
BISHOP

Most Reverend Gregory Parkes  
Bishop of St. Petersburg  
PO Box 40200  
St. Petersburg FL 33743-0200

Dear Bishop Parkes,

I have just received your letter dated July 16, 2019. Thank you for your kind words and importantly, your prayers. I am most grateful for the invitation to come and spend time with the good people in the Diocese of St. Petersburg the week of July 8<sup>th</sup>.

I extend my “Bravo Zulus” to your child and youth protection team. Mr. Michael Craig, Safe Environment Coordinator, and Mr. John Lambert, Victim Assistance Coordinator, both take seriously and with competence, their ministry to protect and to heal. Your vision of protection and healing is indeed diocesan wide – evident with the substantive discussions and questions during my time at the Bethany Center. Additionally, you are well served with the knowledge, experience and wisdom of your review board. It was a pleasure spending time with Ms. Sue Brett, your chair, along with Mr. Joe DiVito, diocesan counsel, Mr. Tom Doyle, and Deacon Rick Wells, your chancellor.

As I shared, this ministry of accompaniment is not meant to be carried out by individuals. It is the combined efforts of all the people of God who are meant to join together to nurture a culture of protection and healing. The work being carried out now in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, will grow and develop, will take root and evolve. I foresee a culture of mindfulness, a state of awareness that is sensitive, healthy, and holy. You are modeling, for all, the needed transformation and the renewal of our Church. I give thanks to God!

Please know of my continued prayers and admiration for you, your staff, and the people of the Diocese of St. Petersburg. May God bless you and those you serve.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Deacon Bernie Nojadera  
Executive Director

Cc: Mr. Michael Craig, SEC  
Mr. John Lambert, VAC