



# Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America

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## A Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers

February 14, 2014

Kobutsu K. Malone  
P.O. Box 213  
Sedgwick, ME 04676

Dear Kobutsu K. Malone,

Words cannot capture the depth of our regret and sorrow for the abuse inflicted on children entrusted to our care by members of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers in the United States and Canada. We understand that in place of safety, security, and well-being, many children were instead subjected to physical and/or sexual abuse at the hands of some of our Brothers.

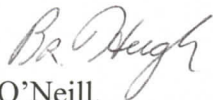
We are genuinely sorry and offer a sincere apology to all those who have been directly or indirectly caused to suffer as a result of the deplorable actions of these Brothers. Similarly, we are gravely disappointed in the actions taken by some in past leadership in failing to respond appropriately to allegations against our Brothers. Children should have always been treated as our highest priority, and it is with heavy hearts that we express shame and revulsion for the abuse and ill-treatment suffered by those who, as children in our care, should have been protected. There is no excuse or explaining away what happened to these children or in the breakdown in addressing the abuse when it became known. As Brothers, we lament our failures in this regard.


We are profoundly sorry for the pain and suffering that you have endured and offer this apology along with the one we issued in court on January 9, 2014.

Additionally, we want you to know that today we are dedicated and committed to the prevention of child abuse and that we have policies and protocols in place to deal openly and swiftly with any new allegations that come forward. As such, we will continue to immediately report any suspected abuse to the proper civil authorities, to remove from public ministry and/or any ministry involving minors those who have abused, and to properly investigate all claims of abuse. In doing so, we will make the protection of the children in our care our highest priority.

We will continue to hold in prayer all those affected by sexual abuse with the hope that some degree of healing and reconciliation can take place.

Sincerely,

  
Bro. Hugh O'Neill,  
Province Leader

  
Bro. Kevin Griffith,  
Deputy Province Leader

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