



DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 1, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with sincere appreciation that I write this letter of my personal support and endorsement for the ministry work of Journey of Hope. Journey of Hope is a lay support group comprised of those who have either personally suffered sexual abuse, or are family members of sexual abuse survivors, along with others who have dedicated themselves to serve those who have suffered this devastating abuse.

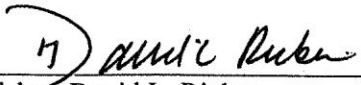
Sadly, some members of Journey of Hope have suffered sexual abuse by clergy and other persons within the Church. I personally feel deep sorrow and repentance for those who represent Jesus Christ; especially within the Catholic Church, in the Diocese of Green Bay, who exploit their position and abuse those smaller and vulnerable who have been entrusted to them.

There, too, are other members of Journey of Hope who have suffered sexual abuse by family members, friends or other trusted members of the community. It is through this diverse cross of suffering and abuse, which they've carried desperately in silence, that they find the empowerment to respond to the variety of witness of Journey of Hope members. Furthermore, it is through this outreach that they are encouraged to bring their own suffering out from the darkness and into the light while taking important steps toward healing.

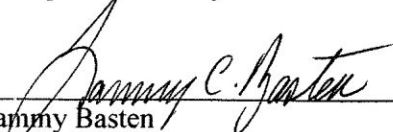
Healing the wounds of sexual abuse is a long and difficult process. I pledge to ensure that there are resources within the Diocese of Green Bay to accompany sexual abuse survivors on that path. I am grateful that Journey of Hope has generously offered to contribute their time, effort and personal witness to help meet those resource needs. They have partnered with the Diocese of Green Bay to help offer annual Healing Prayer Services and a Day of Reflection for abuse survivors. I have found them to be caring, accepting, personally invested and committed to helping others; focused on leading sexual abuse survivors to find peace and healing within the Church.

I am proud to work with Journey of Hope as together, we achieve God's Kingdom here on earth where all are protected, where all are safe, and where all are loved as a child of Jesus Christ and a gift from God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Bishop David L. Ricken
Bishop of Green Bay

Date 2/1/18


Tammy Basten
Chancellor

Date 2/1/18

dma/ddw/tb