



ORDER OF ST AUGUSTINE

ABN 29 525 834 783

Office of the Provincial, Australia

APOLOGY ON BEHALF OF THE AUGUSTINIANS IN AUSTRALIA – NATIONAL DAY OF SORROW AND PROMISE – CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AUSTRALIA – 2ND DECEMBER, 2018

This weekend, Catholic religious congregations throughout Australia, collectively and individually, are expressing sorrow for those situations whereby children have suffered the harm of sexual abuse because of the actions of members of those congregations and the neglect of leadership in responding adequately to those situations when they were known. The recent Royal Commission into Sexual Abuse of Children in Institutional Care has brought to focus the harm that has been done in institutional settings including within the Catholic community.

While many people regularly express their gratitude for the benefits they have received from the pastoral care of Augustinians, this message today has a different purpose.

On behalf of my brother Augustinians, I express sorrow for the distress caused to any child or young person because of the harmful actions of members of our Augustinian Order. The consequences of such harm are deep and enduring. There are those who suffer harm directly, their families and faith communities.

The Augustinians will endeavour to approach the dignity of each person, most especially the young, with respect and integrity. Along with the whole Australian Church we commit ourselves to policies and programmes which are consistent with such respect and integrity.

I also wish to extend an invitation to anyone who has suffered harm as a young person because of the actions of members of our Augustinian Order to seek to have the Order listen to their story.

In all of this we pray together for all concerned but most especially whose lives have been wounded by harm. For all we pray for healing that restores hope.

Fr Peter Jones OSA
Prior Provincial
Order of St Augustine
Province of Australasia