



# *Secular Franciscan Order*



St. Anthony of Nagasaki fraternity

(meeting at)

Franciscan Mission Service

1323 Quincy St., NE

Washington, DC 20017

<http://anthonyofnagasaki.sfousa.org>

September 12, 2018

Mr. Tim Lennon, President  
Survivors' Network of Those Abused by Priests  
P.O. 56539  
St. Louis, MO 63156

Dear Mr. Lennon,

Peace be with you! I'm writing to you as Minister of the St. Anthony of Nagasaki fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order. The Secular Franciscan Order (Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis, or OFS) is the Third Order founded by St. Francis of Assisi in 1221 for lay men and women, and diocesan clergy, who feel called to the Franciscan way of life, but who remain with their families and at their jobs rather than joining the First Order (the Friars Minor) or the Second Order (the cloistered Poor Clares).

Our Rule instructs us to "Go from Gospel to life, and from life to the Gospel." The Franciscan charism of poverty, of voluntary simplicity – in other words, of humility and self-denial – is not an end in itself; it is rather a way of conforming to the example given by Christ, and a way of living out the Gospel, a means of seeking first the kingdom of God. We are called to be instruments of God's peace in the world, and to walk with all of God's creation, especially those who have been forgotten, marginalized, and mistreated. We strive to stand with and bring justice and healing to the poor, the alienated, the abused, and the hurting.

The members of my fraternity have been heartbroken once again over the most recent news concerning abuse of Catholics by priests and the cover-up by bishops. At our most recent meeting, we held a deliberate discussion on ways that we can follow St. Francis, who heard God telling him to "Rebuild my church, for as you can see it is in ruins." We collectively sought to find small ways to bring justice and comfort to those who have been affected by these unspeakable crimes – which we realized includes all of us in the Church. One way that surfaced during our discussion was to support the work being done by your organization. SNAP has a long history of supporting the victims of abuse by those in spiritual "leadership" roles, and we wish to support these efforts. We took a vote, and it was unanimous, to donate half of our fraternal treasury to your organization.

Therefore, on behalf of the fraternity, please accept the attached check for \$1,500. We hope and pray that you will be able to use these funds to continue your efforts to support survivors, protect the vulnerable, expose the truth, and foster accountability.

If you have any questions or would like to speak with me regarding ways our fraternity may assist you in your mission, please contact me via our fraternity website.

Please know that you and your organization arise daily in our individual and collective prayers.

Sincerely yours,



Laura Rainey, OFS  
Minister  
St. Anthony of Nagasaki fraternity