



February 14, 2012

To Bergen Catholic Students, Faculty, Administration and Staff:

I write to provide an update to the information I provided to you in the spring concerning the Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings of the Christian Brothers. Bergen Catholic alumni will soon be receiving a letter concerning the legal proceedings involving Christian Brothers Institute and Christian Brothers of Ireland, Inc. – two separate entities from Bergen Catholic – over allegations of sexual abuse. To our knowledge, those allegations do not involve Bergen Catholic.

Recent articles in the local media on the issue of boundary violations by adults in schools have caused us to review our policies and procedures for the protection of children. We will publish any revisions on EDLINE in the very near future. These articles remind us that we can never be too vigilant. I want to emphasize the importance of Bergen Catholic's zero tolerance for sexual abuse and our commitment to ministering to the needs of any member of the Bergen Catholic Community who is affected by any type of abuse.

We want to assure you that we take aggressive steps to protect each student who is entrusted to us and ensure that incidents of this type do not take place at Bergen Catholic. All of our faculty and staff is finger printed, undergo criminal background checks and education training on sexual abuse. We have been and we remain committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our students to grow and develop academically, spiritually and personally.

While we cannot speak on behalf of the Christian Brothers, their legal representatives or the Court, please feel free to contact me at 201-261-1844 to answer any of your questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bro. M. Walsh c. 2012".

Brother Brian M. Walsh  
President