



Congregational Leaders: Statement of Male Religious to Female Religious

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As leaders of male religious congregations we want to acknowledge the many ways you have and continue to enrich our lives and ministries, and those of many others, through your witness and commitment to faith and justice.

We want to express our sorrow for the harm that men within our congregations have brought upon others and the shame this has brought upon yourselves and the Church.

We apologise for those times when we leaders have not acted with the swiftness or decisiveness that is rightly expected of us in our positions of authority, allowing abuse to continue.

We apologise for the abuse that has also been committed by our members in your schools and institutions.

We apologise that at times we have not taken seriously enough some of your members who alerted us to concerns.

We apologise personally for any abuse our members have inflicted on women religious.

We wish to thank you for the many ways you have stood by us and accompanied us in these difficult times. We are forever grateful for that support. We commit ourselves to addressing the causes of male abuse of power, clerical and religious. We seek your help in achieving this and becoming more openly and compassionately the Church Jesus calls us to be.

Signed,

Major Superiors
Male Religious Congregations
CRA Meeting
Melbourne, June 22nd, 2017