

# *Safe Environment*

## *A Letter from our Abbot and Chancellor:*

The clergy abuse scandal in the Church has caused hurt, anger, and dismay among many of us, clergy and laity alike. The revelations brought forth also call for reform in how the Church addresses these situations. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as well as the Church at large has implemented policies to address this issue of abuse in the Church and to hopefully prevent any future abuse.

The Benedictine Order of Cleveland at St. Andrew Abbey, is one of 19 Benedictine Monasteries of the American Cassinese Congregation in North America. The Congregation has worked to develop a program in each of our monasteries that creates a Safe Environment, primarily addressing child and vulnerable adult protection through specific policies, training on abuse prevention (including healthy relationships and reporting misconduct), and accreditation with a strong emphasis on compliance with Catholic teaching and state laws to ensure physical and spiritual well-being.

As a Benedictine community, we believe in the sanctity of human life, since we are created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). All of us, monks and laity, members of the monastic community, faculty and staff of our high school and other apostolates, are called to respect human life in all its stages. Physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse diminishes the beauty of God in any person. This behavior is totally wrong and deplorable. It goes against the Love of God, our mission as followers of Christ, and the charism of hospitality that is a hallmark of the Benedictine Order.

The monastic community and I share a deep care and concern for those who may have been abused in any way by our community members, faculty, or staff. Therefore, I announce that the monks of St. Andrew Abbey have established a hot line to report any such abuse. If you have experienced misconduct by anyone in our Benedictine community, please call this confidential hotline to make a report so that healing and reconciliation may begin.

Peace,

*Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB*

---

## *Safe Environment Policy*

This section includes the policy for the Benedictine Order of Cleveland in its entirety.

### **Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards**

The Benedictine monks of Saint Andrew Abbey, guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church, believe that human suffering as well as the weaknesses and imperfections of human beings deserve a response rooted in love, compassion, and concern. We

recognize that cases involving allegations of sexual abuse by a member of the monastic community and/or a member of the faculty and staff of our high school require actions that are loving and compassionate to the survivor, fair to the accused, and sensitive to the greater good of the Church and the community at large.

It is our firm belief that our religious, faculty and staff must maintain appropriate boundaries with all people. We call upon those with knowledge of a Member's inappropriate behavior to come forward with this information to prevent further harm. In short, we ask everyone to join with us to protect the safety of children, women, and men, and with firm determination, to promote healing for the future.

---

## *Main Media Contacts*

### ***For the Benedictine Order of Cleveland/St. Andrew Abbey:***

#### **Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB**

St. Andrew Abbey  
10510 Buckeye Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44104  
Hooverg2050@yahoo.com

### ***For Benedictine High School:***

#### **Mr. David Schroeder**

President, Benedictine High School  
2900 Martin Luther King Drive  
Cleveland, Ohio 44104  
schroeder@cbhs.edu

#### **Survivor Assistance Coordinator**

#### **Dean Fazekas**

**Hotline for Confidential Reporting**  
Google Voice Number (216) 245-7671.