



August 14, 2018

Dear Priests and Deacons,

In just a few days, Saint Charles Seminary will welcome more than 170 seminarians including 50 new seminarians. This growing enrollment is thanks to God's goodness and your continued support of our mission to form servant leaders after the heart of Jesus Christ.

While we rejoice in this good news, I am also writing to share with you our policy against sexual violence, harassment and stalking. While this policy has been in place for some time, I highlight it in light of recent news events about the sexual harassment of seminarians in U.S. seminaries. Our policies include our own policy found [here](#) which was last updated in 2015 and the policies and procedures of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. These policies will be reviewed with every seminarian at orientation and each seminarian will be required to sign a form acknowledging receipt. These policies are also part of the student handbook and are posted on our website.

The policy states that any allegation is to be immediately reported to our Seminary Department of Safety and Security who then turns it over to the Archdiocesan Director of Investigations. It is important to note that any report of alleged criminal activity is immediately reported to law enforcement.

While the Office of Investigations investigates and follows the established process for laypeople or clergy, and allegations against clerics are reviewed by the independent Archdiocesan Professional Responsibilities Review Board, this process happens only after law enforcement concludes its work in the case of any alleged criminal activity.

A recent allegation involving two students in violation of this policy which surfaced on social media last week and allegedly occurred during the 2010-11 academic year has been turned over to the Archdiocesan Director of Investigations.

If you have any questions about these policies, please do not hesitate to contact me. I ask that you continue to pray for our seminarians as they begin this new academic year. Please also know that I pray for you daily and am eternally grateful for your support.

God bless you.

In Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Timothy C. Senior". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Bishop Timothy Senior