

September 3, 2020

Dear Friends,

As I mentioned to you in July I have stepped back from ministry and asked for help and support for personal reasons. It's with a heavy heart that I'm writing to you today to explain the reasons why. I owe it to those I have hurt by my actions, as well as to each of you, to give further detail.

During my time in Dallas, I committed emotional and physical boundary violations with an adult woman. Additionally, I engaged in an emotional and sexual relationship with a separate adult woman. I am deeply remorseful and ashamed. My inappropriate and immature behavior hurt people. I apologize for the harm I have caused these women as well as those I harm by the scandal this brings to the priesthood, the Legion, my greater Regnum Christi family, and the Church. Most especially, I have become acutely aware of the abuse of my position as a priest in confusing and hurting those I was sent to help and shepherd. This fact pains me the most. For these reasons, I asked for help, went to inpatient treatment, and I am continuing with ongoing therapy. I want to take responsibility for my actions. I realize that it is not appropriate for me to reach out to people directly, so I invite anyone that would like to come forward to do so by contacting Ms. Kristen Austin, LCSW, who helps the Legion as the Victims Assistance Coordinator (Kristin.Austin@arcol.org, 443-788-9730). I know that the pain and suffering that my actions have caused reaches beyond just those women who have been most closely affected.

The only way to move forward for those I've hurt is to acknowledge the harm I have done so that healing can begin. I am offering prayer and penance for all the people I've hurt by my actions. May Christ, the Good Shepherd, bring healing and solace for all. Please pray for me as well.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Edward Bentley LC". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Fr. Edward Bentley, LC