

Thy Kingdom Come!

LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST

TERRITORIAL DIRECTORATE

NA-LC 0254-2022

Clas. VII.4.6

Dallas Locality

Dallas, TX

April 19, 2022

Dear Dallas members of Regnum Christi,

I hope you are well, and the Lord continues blessing your efforts to expand His Kingdom through your work in the Dallas area, especially as we celebrate our Lord's paschal mysteries.

With this note, I wish to update you regarding the outcome of the investigation into alleged misconduct by Father Edward Bentley, LC.

But first, to all affected by Father Bentley's actions, especially those more directly impacted, I pray for your healing. I am deeply sorry one of our priests hurt you, and I hope to work with you towards repairing this hurt. I am grateful to everyone who participated in the investigatory process, especially those who came forward to report allegations of misconduct.

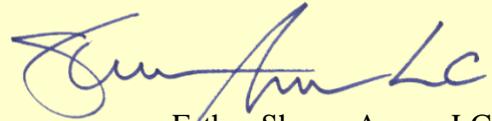
The investigation has now concluded. Following canonical procedures, we enlisted the help of third-party investigators and consulted our review board. Through those efforts and with Father Bentley's own admissions, we now know that over many years he engaged in patterns of troubling behavior with adult women. While the evidence did not meet the threshold to substantiate civil or canonical crimes, he gravely violated his religious vows and the Legionaries of Christ's [Code of Conduct](#). If, in the future, evidence of crimes surfaces, it will be dealt with accordingly.

Father Bentley has expressed remorse and wishes to remain in the clerical state. He is currently living in a Legionary community on a safety plan, which he has accepted, designed to help him live his religious life in an appropriate manner, while he continues the difficult path of healing and reparation. Father Bentley also does not have faculties to exercise public ministry and is prohibited from contacting any person he has hurt or visiting the Dallas area. I ask your prayers for him and the Legion's ongoing purification.

I regret this process has taken so long. I pledge that, moving forward, I will strive to help our men live out their priestly vocation faithfully and to deal swiftly with any future accusations of misconduct made against any Legionary of Christ.

If you are aware of a Legionary who has crossed boundaries expected of a priest or abused anyone, please contact our program coordinator for pastoral care, Abby Saunders by email at asaunders@arcol.org or by phone at 443-788-9730.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shawn Aaron LC". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "LC" clearly visible at the end.

Father Shawn Aaron, LC
Territorial Director