

COMMUNION & LIBERATION

HUMAN ADVENTURE CORPORATION

October 31, 2023

Dear Friends,

We are writing to inform you of the reports received by Communion and Liberation (CL) in the U.S. regarding allegations of sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, psychological abuse, and boundary violations perpetrated against some young adults and minors in our communities over an extended period of time. Christopher Bacich, former CL National Responsible, was the sole perpetrator named in each of the allegations of abuse we received.

With due respect for the privacy of the victims, we are able to provide the following details about the alleged abuse:

- Reported incidents took place between 1997 and 2018 during which there were alleged to be multiple victims, including minors.
- Allegations were reported to the Board of the Human Adventure Corporation (HAC) and the then-CL National Responsible, Fr. Jose Medina, in 2018.
- An investigation was requested by the HAC Board and CL leadership and undertaken by the law firm Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, LLP.
- Following the investigation, the then-CL National Responsible and the HAC Board assessed that the reports of abuse were substantiated based on credible evidence.
- The proper ecclesial authorities and law enforcement were duly notified of the reports received and, to our knowledge, no criminal charges have been filed to date.

In March of 2019, Fr. Medina sent a letter to CL community leaders throughout the U.S. informing them of the allegations, the outcome of the investigation, and that Mr. Bacich would be barred from all further CL activities. Mr. Bacich subsequently resigned from the Fraternity of Communion and Liberation and Memores Domini. Mr. Bacich denied any wrongdoing.

Since that time, two other reports of a similar nature were made against Mr. Bacich and were investigated. Mr. Bacich was invited to participate in these two investigations but declined to do so. These, too, were determined to be substantiated.

Over the past year, both the CL National Responsible, Fr. Michael Carvill, and the President of the Fraternity of CL, Dr. Davide Prospero, met with victims. As a result of those conversations

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and of the completion of the investigations undertaken, we believe the moment has come for a more public account of a situation that deeply wounded some of our communities.

We sincerely apologize to the victims, families and community members harmed by these evil acts. We are truly grateful to the victims, families and community members who had the courage to bring these events to light.

It is very troubling that these alleged acts were carried out by an adult who had an educational responsibility in the movement in North America. These events fill us with sorrow, and we are reminded that none of us is immune to the effects of sin. We are also deeply saddened that, at times, those to whom concerns were reported were slow to believe and respond to the accounts presented to them. We sincerely hope that by acknowledging that abuse indeed took place and that it inflicted great harm, we might provide some solace to victims and help them find healing. We also hope to dispel any remaining doubts, ambiguities, or fear in our communities by informing you of the steps we have taken to provide support for victims, to be ever more vigilant, and to prevent this from happening in the future.

Support for Victims

We have in front of us a responsibility to help and support those who are wounded, as well as a call to conversion. If certain evils happened within our community, they did so partly because the environment lacked safeguards specifically designed to detect and prevent such abuse.

Today, the movement stands ready to help victims of abuse in every way within its capacity. If you have been a victim or need help facing these wounds, know that you are not alone. Please refer to this Policy and Procedures [document](#) to be connected with someone who can accompany you and offer assistance. If someone you know has been a victim, please share this letter with them so that they know they are not alone and that there is help available.

Preventing Future Abuse

In addition to providing support to victims, we have taken and are continuing to implement the following measures to combat further abuse:

- On August 24, 2020, CL leadership in the U.S. published our Policy for the Protection of Minors ([Policy](#)). It has been reviewed and updated regularly to reflect best practices.
- Under the Policy, adults working directly with minors in CL activities are required to pass periodic background checks, complete approved child protection training on a regular basis, and abide by a code of conduct.
- We established the Committee for the Protection of Minors whose responsibility is to receive complaints and to investigate them, pursuant to the terms of the Policy.

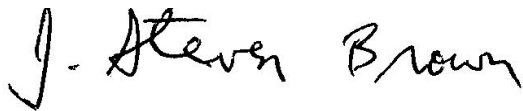
In addition to the Policy, the above referenced Policy and Procedures document summarizes the procedure for identifying and reporting abuse. We can never tolerate any form of violence, especially against minors and young adults. Much less can we ever justify such an attitude, whether it stems from one's temperament, perversion, illness, or from a willful desire to dominate others. We ask each of you to pay serious attention to these indications and to immediately report any and all suspected abuse to the Committee for the Protection of Minors, Fr. Michael Carvill or any member of the HAC Board. The above referenced Policy and Procedures document contains their contact information. All reports will be treated with sensitivity and due respect for the privacy interests of those involved, to the extent possible.

Veni Sancte Spiritus. Veni per Mariam.

In communion,



Fr. Michael Carvill, FSCB
North American Responsible



Steve Brown
President, Human Adventure Corporation