

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

May 3, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord during this Easter season, I invite you to join me in supporting the Archdiocesan Office of Assistance Ministry, victims-survivors, priests and others in the creation of a Healing Garden.

The idea of the Healing Garden was initially brought to me in 2008 by a victim-survivor of clerical sexual abuse and staff members from the Office of Assistance Ministry. They and others who were supportive of this initiative proposed the construction of a beautiful place of refuge, prayer, reflection and solitude, where God, whose goodness is visible in creation, might help all victims-survivors of sexual abuse in their journeys toward healing and reconciliation.

Through collaborative efforts with the Jesuit Community, this Healing Garden will be located at Holy Family Parish on Roosevelt Road in Chicago, which is centrally located and easily accessible by all forms of transportation. The design for the garden will be completed soon, and construction is scheduled to begin this summer. Survivors of sexual abuse in this Archdiocese are actively involved in this Archdiocesan-supported project.

As the Healing Garden takes shape over the next several months, I ask you to join me in praying for all those who seek healing from the wounds of sexual abuse. May the Lord, whose power to make the injured whole and to bring goodness out of evil drew people to follow Him, bless you and those you love with His peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago