January 8, 2019

Dear Pastors, Pastoral Leaders, Deacons and Lay Ministers,

A very happy and blessed New Year to you all! It is my hope that the Christmas season continues to bring great joy to you and yours.

I am writing today with an opportunity and invitation for you to participate in a trauma training program.

Thursday, January 31
1:00-5:00 p.m.
St. John the Baptist - 2597 Glendale Ave., Green Bay

In light of the clergy abuse scandal in our church, I asked Catholic Charities to research training programs to educate diocesan leaders and area mental health professionals on the topic of trauma recovery and finding a way toward healing. Victim/survivors of sexual abuse, no matter who the perpetrator may be, need our love and support as they journey through their pain to a place of healing.

With that said, I am happy to share that Trauma Recovery Associates (TRA), of Portage, MI, will present this training. TRA is comprised of mental health professionals with expertise in treating adult survivors of childhood abuse and neglect. Their executive director, Rev. Kenneth W. Schmidt, is Pastor of St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish in Kalamazoo, MI, and a licensed and nationally certified counselor. The training is, first and foremost, rooted in spirituality. It will introduce an understanding of childhood trauma and its impact and address three main themes:

- Attachment Ambivalence (along with people's ambivalence toward God)
- Locus of Control Shift (along with guilt, shame and the Sacrament of Penance)
- The Victim-Perpetrator-Rescuer Triangle (along with people's perceptions of God and God as Failed Rescuer)

The link for registration is www.gbdioc.org/TraumaRecoveryJan and the program is free of charge. Any questions can be directed to Ted Phernetton, Catholic Charities Director at 920-272-8226.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL
Bishop of Green Bay