Our records show that Father William J. Walsh, SJ, first had a one-year appointment as Assistant Professor of Church History at Lancaster Theological Seminary for the academic year 1968-69. His part-time teaching contract was renewed on a year-to-year basis ending in 1978. During that time our records show that Father Walsh continued to teach and live at the Jesuit Novitiate in Wernersville, Pennsylvania. At Lancaster Seminary, he taught one and sometimes two courses per semester, ranging from one hour to several hours per week.

Michael Gabriele, director of communication for the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus, has told us that there are no accusations of sexual abuse made against Father Walsh from Lancaster. He said that allegations of sexual abuse against Father Walsh were made from individuals in Philadelphia, Wernersville, and Prince George's County in Maryland. There are no records of complaints of any kind made against Father Walsh in our files.

Lancaster Theological Seminary has a zero-tolerance policy against sexual abuse. We teach students to follow the law and report allegations to the police, and we abide by this ourselves. All students are required to take boundary training to recognize the power dynamics of the pastoral role that might lead to abuse. We teach students to observe professional boundaries that are the guardrails to right relationships for a person who holds authority and power in a faith community. We teach future church leaders to lead with integrity and self-awareness so the vulnerable will be protected. This is fundamental to Christian ministry and what it means to be God's representative in the world for human wholeness and the flourishing of all creation.

We join with the Maryland Province Jesuits in encouraging anyone who suspects clergy abuse to contact local civil authorities and, in the case of Father Walsh, to report all concerns to the Maryland Province.