

Senna, Aelred

Mon 5/9/2016 9:30 AM

To:

General Announcements - All Abbey Employees;

General Announcements - SJU Employees;

General Announcements - CSB Employees;

Cc:

Senna, Aelred;

### **Internal Statement Re the Impact of the May 25 Deadline**

The Minnesota Child Victims Act is scheduled to expire May 25. As you may recall, this is the legislation passed in 2013 that created a three-year exemption from the statute of limitations for those who believe they were victims of sexual abuse as children. Saint John's has been put on notice that a number of new claims will be filed in the next several weeks as attorneys rush to meet the May 25 deadline. We expect other organizations will face the same flurry of activity. Many of the claims filed during the three years of the Child Victims Act allege incidents that are up to a half-century old and often involve monks who are long-since deceased. The number of claims that will be filed in the coming weeks is a legal strategy in response to a deadline, not a reflection of new incidents. **In fact, no incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a monk of Saint John's has occurred in more than a quarter-century.**

Indeed, as we prepared this message, we were informed that Attorney Jeff Anderson will announce a new lawsuit against Saint John's on Monday afternoon, May 9. The claim being announced on Monday is being brought against Fr. Michael Bik in connection with his time working at the Prep School.

Peace,

**Br. Ælred Senna, osb**

Abbey Spokesperson

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