



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3610

May 11, 2026

Prot. N. 33/26

Dear Mr. Shellenberger,

I am writing in response to your letter of December 16, addressed to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, concerning the Saint John Vianney Center's new national *Suicide Prevention and Awareness Program for Clergy and Religious Leadership*.

The Holy Father is grateful to know of this initiative, which seeks to help bishops, superiors, clergy, religious, and other leaders welcome, listen to, and accompany those who suffer in darkness or despair. Your Center's longstanding service to the Church is a meaningful expression of pastoral care for those entrusted with ministry and for all who are in need of renewed hope.

It is my prayer that this program will assist many in drawing near with compassion to persons in moments of deep vulnerability, so that no one may suffer alone and the dignity of every human life may be upheld with tenderness and practical charity.

Commending the Saint John Vianney Center, its staff, and all who will participate in this program to the intercession of Saint John Vianney, I am pleased to impart, on behalf of His Holiness, the requested Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of consolation, strength, and peace in the Lord.

With cordial regards and prayerful good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ Gabriele Caccia
Apostolic Nuncio

Mr. David Shellenberger, RN, BSN
President and Chief Executive Officer
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