



DEC 23 2005

**Statement
Father Joseph Weltensteiner**

As you can imagine, my first thoughts and emotions are of anger. But quickly I must offer forgiveness and reconciliation to those who are making these false accusations. I have never been sexually inappropriate with any child at any time. Why would these people make accusations that they must know, as I know, never happened.

Upon hearing these allegations, I immediately offered to take a polygraph test, which I have now done. The results support the truth, which is that these allegations are completely false. I am making this report public because it is important to me that the community know the truth.

Creating a positive and safe environment at Morning Star Boys' Ranch has been one of my primary priorities for 40 years. These allegations have hurt me deeply, but I have confidence that those who know me and have worked with me throughout my career know what is real. I again thank the hundreds of alumni and other supporters who have contacted me over the past months.