

## SCHOENSTATT FATHERS

Dear Schoenstatt Family,

Today the Vatican has announced that the Holy Father Pope Francis has decreed the dismissal from the clerical state of Francisco José Cox, ex-archbishop of La Serena. Allegations of child abuse that have been denounced in recent months and weeks were the subject of relevant investigations in the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and led to this decision.

We receive this news with much shame for the damage caused to the victims. We show solidarity with them and their profound suffering. Today more than ever we deplore every act of abuse that offends the dignity of people.

We unreservedly support this decision in justice and truth, for the good of the Church.

We reaffirm our willingness to collaborate with the justice in everything they require. That's why we'll ask for a medical evaluation to determine whether it is possible that Francisco Jose Cox returns to Chile.

The truth hurts us, but it will set us free. The path of truth and humility leads us to a deep conversion and to live more faithfully our Covenant of Love. Let us pray for the victims of that time and for all those who suffer in one way or another for all this.

May the mercy of God that saves us break in our frailty and misery.

From the shrine of Bellavista, we remember and bless you,

Fr. Fernando Baeza - Provincial superior of the Schoenstatt Fathers

Fr. Juan Pablo Catoggio – General superior of the Schoenstatt Fathers

Santiago of Chile, October 13, 2018

