**SJN ACTION statement about David Haas, Catholic composer**

*September 8, 2020*

The St. John Neumann Catholic Community is aware of multiple allegations that David Haas, a composer of many songs that our parish has sung over the years, engaged in inappropriate sexual conduct.

While Haas’ music undoubtedly has enriched the faith journeys of many parishioners, the playing of his songs can be a trigger and may cause pain and hurt, regardless of intention. Survivors and victims of sexual harassment and abuse deserve our support and understanding. Our Church has suffered much from those who have abused power to harm others, and our parish should do everything it can to help the Church move toward healing and justice in its response to the sexual abuse scandal, ensuring that those most hurt truly feel they are welcome at St. John Neumann. Therefore, our parish will refrain from using the music of David Haas at regularly scheduled Masses and holy day liturgies at this time.

GIA Publications (publisher of our parish hymnals) has [made a statement](https://www.giamusic.com/page-images/PR_Haas_June6_2020.pdf) about David Haas, as has [the Archdiocese of St Paul-Minneapolis](https://www.archspm.org/statement-regarding-david-haas/) (where Haas works). After weeks of silence, [a statement was posted to Haas’ website](http://www.davidhaas.us/2020/07/09/david-haas-apology-statement/) on July 9, 2020.

Let us pray always, for those who have been hurt, for victims and abusers, and for healing in our Church.

**About the SJN ACTION Group**

St. John Neumann ACTION group, formed in response to the summer 2018 revelations about clerical sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, works to achieve the following goals: advocacy, change, transparency, inclusion, and ongoing reform. The group focuses on supporting survivors, educating the parish, and advocating for meaningful laity involvement. Learn how to get involved: saintjn.org/action/