



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

NEWS

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Bishop Bradley releases statement on Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report

KALAMAZOO, Mich.: (August 15, 2018): Bishop Paul J. Bradley released the following statement today in regard to the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report involving the six Catholic Dioceses in that State. Bishop Bradley's statement follows:

"Yesterday's publication of the findings of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report on sexual abuse allegations by clergy in six of the Dioceses in Pennsylvania is disturbing and upsetting, to say the least, and is a source of outrage, shock, and scandal to all who read it. The Grand Jury report gives Catholics in particular, and people in general, cause to wonder how such heinous situations as detailed in the report covering a span of 70 years, could be possible; I know I do.

"While we know that we are imperfect and sinful human beings, all followers of Jesus are called to a higher standard of behavior, not just to avoid sin but to pursue a life of virtue. Those ordained as Deacons, Priests, and Bishops, are, without question, expected to be above reproach. Indeed, their very vocation is consecrated to a life of holiness, and they are entrusted with the responsibility to preach the Gospel and to celebrate the Sacraments of Jesus Christ, for the purpose of bringing people to conversion of heart and to embracing the gift of salvation that Jesus has won for us. It is nothing short of tragic when individuals fail to live this vocation, and to realize that, as [Cardinal Daniel DiNardo](#), the President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, wrote recently: 'Both the abuses themselves, and the fact that they have remained undisclosed for decades, have caused great harm to people's lives and represent grave moral failures of judgment on the part of Church leaders.'

“We can never become complacent. It is not enough for us to be able to say that we avoid evil; we must also commit ourselves to do good, to pursue holiness and to foster a safe environment of Christ-like love, that is pure, chaste, and selfless. As a Diocese, we have tried to do everything humanly possible to be true to our calling as shepherds, and each day renew our determination to remain diligent in the protection of the dignity of all people, first and foremost, the protection of our children. We are steadfast in our adherence to all current policies and procedures, including conducting background checks for clergy and for any lay person who has any association with children in our Church.

“But we must do more! Beginning with myself, I ask all those ordained as priests and deacons in our Diocese to renew our own commitment to be who we were ordained to be: the compassionate and healing Face of Jesus to those entrusted into our care. With this in mind and knowing, as Jesus has taught us, that the forces of evil can only be overcome by prayer and fasting, I urge all our ordained clergy, and all people of good will, to join with me in voluntarily offering the next nine Tuesdays (from August 21st, the Feast of Pope St. Pius X, to October 16th, the Feast of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque) to be days of more intense prayer and fasting, as well as to pray a rosary on each of those Tuesdays as a weekly novena, meditating on the Sorrowful Mysteries, for healing for all victims of sexual abuse, for a conversion of mind and heart on the part of those in need of repentance and for a renewal in our individual commitment to follow Jesus with conviction, joy, and purity of heart.

“On this Feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother into Heaven, we pray for her loving intercession, so that she can use all her motherly care to do what she always does: help us to turn away from sin, and draw us ever closer to the Heart of her Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.”