



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

9531 Liberty Road | Randallstown, Maryland 21133

I am sharing a statement from the Archdiocese of Baltimore for the benefit of parishes, which I fully endorse. I am reading it during Holy Mass on The Lord's Day on November 19 & 20. After the statement, I will add a personal comment.

A Statement on the Motion filed by the Maryland Attorney General Regarding the Archdiocese's Historic Handling of Allegations of Abuse by Ministers of the Church

On Thursday, the Maryland Office of the Attorney General filed a motion in court seeking permission to publicly release a report on his office's four-year investigation of the Archdiocese's handling of abuse allegations dating back to the 1940's. The information contained in the motion was deeply troubling and painful, especially for those harmed, as well as for the laity and the many good priests, deacons, and religious who have faithfully served in our Archdiocese.

Archbishop Lori acknowledged this pain in a letter sent Thursday evening to the people and clergy of the Archdiocese. In it, expressed deep remorse and shame as he apologized to victim-survivors for the suffering they endured and for the Church's past failure to protect them and to respond appropriately to allegations of abuse it received.

The Archbishop also noted that the motion could cause confusion about the current response by the Archdiocese to allegations of child sexual abuse, given that conclusions drawn from historic events in the motion, while a continued source of shame and remorse, do not reflect the Archdiocese's current and decades-long strong pastoral response and handling of allegations of abuse.

He went on to note that for decades, the Archdiocese has fully complied with child protection efforts and laws, including mandatory reporting of all allegations of abuse to law enforcement, permanent bans of any employee or volunteer credibly accused of abuse; pastoral outreach to those harmed, and open communication about newly received credible allegations of abuse, including through the list of credibly accused priests posted on the archdiocesan website since 2002.

Finally, the Archbishop acknowledged that the Attorney General's motion may reopen wounds or feel as if it is an inadequate or incomplete account of justice, and offered prayers that it brings some measure of healing of the deep wounds caused by the scourge of abuse in the life of the Church.

I invite you to join me in adding the prayers of our parish to those of the Archbishop and our fellow Catholics in the Archdiocese as we seek to heal our wounded Church.

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A parish of the Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore

This is the end of the Archdiocesan statement. My personal comment is as follows.

The revelations about how vulnerable persons have suffered horrific actions by some members of the clergy have caused personal sorrow more than I can express. However, it does not compare with the suffering that victim-survivors and their loved ones have endured and continue to endure.

I strongly support Archdiocese of Baltimore efforts to promote pathways for healing and justice for several decades now. I strongly support the enforcement of our Archdiocesan child and youth protection policies.

While I experience sorrow, I state the following with humility and without contradiction to my previous remarks. I also state it for those who may be concerned about my morale as another wave of reports come in.

I am not ashamed to be a Catholic Christian. I am not ashamed to be a priest. It is because I am a Catholic priest that I want victim-survivors to receive healing and what is just.

Now I am concerned about you. If you need to talk and/or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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