



ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
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OFFICE OF
THE ARCHBISHOP

2019

To the Catholic Faithful of the Archdiocese of Hartford
and to all our fellow citizens in Connecticut

In this first month of the new year I pray that God will bless all of us, and our country and world, with His grace and peace.

For the Catholic Church this is a very challenging time inasmuch as the great crime and sin of sexual abuse continues to cast a very dark cloud over the Church's leadership and her clergy. Decisive and very effective steps were taken in 2002, and in many ways the Church now offers a model for proactive prevention, but the notorious failure in the case of the former Cardinal McCarrick, and the lingering unhealed wounds of past abuse, continue to cry out for further action and answers.

In December, I announced that the Archdiocese of Hartford would do three things after the new year.

First, the Archdiocese would publish the names of Archdiocesan clergy from the present going back to 1953, the year in which the Archdiocese of Hartford as such was established, who have been the object of lawsuits and legal settlements, or otherwise credibly accused, and the names of religious order priests and priests from other dioceses who have been credibly accused of an offense that took place in the Archdiocese. As of today these names can be found on the Archdiocesan website, www.archdioceseofhartford.org, specifically in the subsite *Promise to Protect*.

Second, the Archdiocese would contract for an independent review of all our clergy files going back to 1953 to identify any additional names, with the understanding that the publication of names would be updated as any new information became available. Today I am pleased to announce that retired Connecticut Superior Court Judge Antonio Robaina, who is now with the law firm of McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP, has been engaged to conduct an independent investigation to provide a comprehensive and transparent accounting of sexual abuse of minors by clergy in the Archdiocese of Hartford and the Archdiocese's response to such abuse.

Third, in December I announced that the Archdiocese would publish the financial outlay that has been made as a result of the abuse of minors by clergy, and the sources of these funds. As of today, this too is posted on our Archdiocesan website.

Once again, it is important to point out that there are no Archdiocese of Hartford priests currently in ministry in the Archdiocese of Hartford who have had credible allegations of child sexual abuse asserted against them. In the last 20 years two Archdiocesan priests have been credibly accused of sexually abusing a minor during that entire period, and both of those priests were criminally charged and prosecuted for their crimes.