

I just wanted to give our parishioners a heads-up about the following. If you have any concerns, please contact me in the Parish Office or by email: [Fernandes@sjy.org](mailto:Fernandes@sjy.org).

Dear Brothers in Christ,

I am writing to alert you to a newspaper article that we expect will be published in the York Daily Record soon. It will address several specific cases of sexual abuse by clergy in the Diocese of Harrisburg. Some cases were well publicized previously, so they may be familiar to you already; others had a lower profile. We made the decision to confirm the cases presented by the reporter in the interest of accuracy and transparency.

There are many viewpoints concerning the disclosure of information about instances of abuse, particularly of deceased clergy who cannot now defend themselves. This is one of the reasons it has been the longstanding policy of the Diocese not to publish names. However, the names to appear in the article were obtained independently and are to be published with or without our cooperation. Therefore the Diocese decided to provide accurate information in the interest of transparency and healing.

The reality of the crimes against children that were perpetrated by some of our brothers is not easy to face. The increased media coverage of the issue recently has stirred painful emotions for many. We must seek the light of Christ to guide us through these times of darkness and pain. Through His mercy our work to address childhood sexual abuse will promote healing and renew trust with our brothers and sisters in the Church and the wider community.

It is likely that the publication of this article will raise questions and stir concern among the faithful. You may direct inquiries to Fr. Danneker by email at [frddanneker@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:frddanneker@hbgdiocese.org) or by calling (717) 657-4804, ext. 352 or to me at [frrgillelan@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:frrgillelan@hbgdiocese.org), telephone (717) 657-4804, ext. 350. Should any reports of sexual abuse by clergy, diocesan employees or volunteers be reported to you, please direct those making the report to call our toll-free diocesan hotline at 1-800-626-1608.

Yours in Christ,  
Very Rev. Robert M. Gillelan, Jr.  
Secretary for Clergy and Consecrated Life