



Bishop of Gary

DIOCESE OF GARY

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Bishop Donald Hying's Statement on Recent Reports of Sexual Abuse in the Church

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The grand jury report regarding the cases of clergy abuse in Pennsylvania contains details regarding Father Raymond Lukac, a diocesan priest of Greensburg, PA, who served from 1961-1963 at Bishop Noll Institute in the Diocese of Gary. While the content of the grand jury report was unknown to us until its release yesterday, we can comment on the fact that, in 2012, an individual here in our Diocese presented allegations against Lukac. In response, the diocesan delegate for sexual misconduct convened meetings of the Diocesan Review Board to determine the credibility of these charges and to give a full report to Bishop Melczek. After a process of due diligence and careful investigation, the Board concluded that there was insufficient evidence to affirm credibility. All steps outlined in the Charter for the Protection of Youth and Young People were followed.

Our local Church shares in the universal sadness and anger regarding the recent reports of sexual abuse by clergy. While we continue to pray for all abuse victims, we also resolutely commit ourselves to zealous vigilance to ensure the protection of all of our children, youth and vulnerable adults. Our diocesan website includes information on reporting allegations to the authorities and to the Victim Assistance Coordinator of the Diocese. The crimes and sins of priest perpetrators and the bishops who covered up their wrongdoing continue to cast horrible shadows of pain, suffering and distrust, both in the lives which have been shattered by the abuse as well as all members in the Church. We pray that this painful process of shedding light on these horrible crimes will produce greater accountability, transparency and vigilance in all levels of the Church.

Most Reverend Donald J. Hying  
Bishop of Gary