

December 19, 2018
Statement from the Diocese of Joliet
Regarding the Preliminary Findings of the Office of the Attorney General

On December 19, 2018, the Office of the Attorney General for the State of Illinois (“Attorney General”) released preliminary findings related to its inquiry of the six Illinois Catholic dioceses and their policies for investigating and reporting clergy abuse.

The Attorney General’s preliminary report draws several aggregate conclusions for the six dioceses. It is important to note that the Diocese of Joliet has received no formal or informal indication from the Attorney General that we failed to adequately investigate any allegation of abuse and/or report it to authorities. The Attorney General has also not informed the Diocese of Joliet of any inaccuracies or omissions in our files that would prompt additions or corrections to the list of priests with credible allegations that is on our website.

The Diocese of Joliet created its first policy on clergy sexual abuse of minors in 1990, twelve (12) years before the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* (“Charter”) was published. The Diocese established its first independent Review Committee in 1993, which investigates all allegations of clergy sexual abuse of minors. The Review Committee is comprised of lay persons employed in the fields of medicine, law, law enforcement and social service, as well as clergy members. Also, in 1993 the Diocese of Joliet established its first Pastoral Response Team, which provides pastoral assistance to survivors. The path of healing and reconciliation is complicated and sometimes takes many years; the Diocese of Joliet strives to treat survivors with compassion and empathy throughout this process and beyond.

The Diocese of Joliet expresses its genuine regret and profound sympathy to any victims and survivors of sexual abuse by clergy in the Diocese of Joliet and elsewhere. We are committed to promoting the healing and reconciliation of survivors.

We encourage any interested party to visit the website for the Diocese of Joliet Office of Child & Youth Protection at <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/youthprotection>. The website includes information regarding diocesan policies and procedures for working with minors, directions for reporting abuse, and a list of all credible/substantiated allegations against any diocesan priest, which has been continually updated since its first publication in 2006.

The Diocese of Joliet commends the Office of the Attorney General for its diligent work and cooperative approach during this inquiry. We are committed to continue working with state and local law enforcement officials to make every effort to protect young people.

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