



Archdiocese of Newark
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

November 4, 2018

Dear Members of the Archdiocese of Newark,

The Philadelphia Inquirer and Boston Globe ran a joint article today on the state of sexual abuse in the Church, claiming that as many as 50 bishops have handled sexual abuse cases since 2002 improperly. While the information must be verified, even one situation in which a bishop violated our Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People or did not put victims' needs first is a grave concern.

The tragedy of this crisis is twofold: the deep and terrible scars caused by sexual abuse by clergy, and the broken trust caused by coverup. The Catholic Church has done much, both nationally and here in our archdiocese, to create safe, healthy, holy environments for our children in our schools and our parishes. Much of the cases being reported today happened decades ago.

But with the resignation of Archbishop Theodore McCarrick, we are now realizing that some bishops did not enter into the covenant we call the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People wholeheartedly. This is sinful and unacceptable. It has caused irreparable harm to every priest's and bishop's relationship with the faithful. Only intentional acts of restorative justice can help us reform and renew our deeply wounded Church.

I endorse the actions already underway by our US Conference of Catholic Bishops to strengthen the accountability of bishops. After addressing the healing of victims, it is my greatest priority. I have also prioritized a review of the files and procedures of our archdiocese. I intend to ensure we are doing everything we can in this archdiocese to help victims, their loved ones, and their communities to heal from the scourge of clergy sexual abuse. And I am committed to being able to assure you that no clergy in ministry in our archdiocese has any credible allegation of abuse.

In a few weeks, I will be announcing further structural changes and new policies within the Archdiocese of Newark itself – step-by-step reforms that I hope will be embraced by other dioceses throughout the state.

Please pray for me, that I may have the strength and courage to lead our archdiocese, and pray for all who are suffering from the sins of sexual abuse. May Christ use this painful time in our Church to unite us in proclaiming his abundant love.

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark

Archdiocesan Center