



Archdiocese of Newark
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

November 16, 2018

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Friday, November 30, this local Church of Newark will continue its journey to acknowledge publicly the sins of sexual abuse, and to rebuild trust in the leadership of our Church. We have chosen this date specifically because, a few days later, we will begin the season of Advent, a time of preparing ourselves to be worthy of the coming of The Redeemer.

Beginning at 7:30 PM in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, I again will lead the faithful of this Archdiocese in a second prayer service, titled *Longing for Light...We Wait in Darkness*. Together, we will seek forgiveness, strength and direction using as our guide the Words of Scripture. Together, we will take the first steps from Contemplation into Courageous Action.

I was heartened during our first service on September 14 by the presence and active participation of so many in this local Church, all seeking to support those whom the Church and its ministers have harmed. I thank all who took part in that evening.

I again invite all of the faithful of the Archdiocese – Lay, Religious and Clergy – to this second prayer service to seek guidance from the Holy Spirit, as revealed in the Living Word of Scripture. *I also call on every parish in the Archdiocese to designate a member of the community to participate in this service in a very special way – by carrying in procession a new, specially dedicated Book of the Gospels that the parish will receive as a gift of the Knights of Columbus following the service. It is our hope that each parish will use this book in similar prayer services within their local community to echo our commitment to justice for those harmed by sexual abuse. If you would like to accompany your pastor to the service and represent your community, speak with him. We have provided each pastor with instructions on how to participate in this portion of the service.*

I know from comments received following our first service on September 14 that all of you are looking for signs that, in addition to prayer and Contemplation, we as Church are taking courageous action. It is my hope to share with you at this service on November 30 some concrete steps that we are taking now, and will be implementing in the days and weeks ahead.

So please join me in prayer, honesty and love for survivors of clergy sexual abuse as we seek the light and move from the darkness.

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,

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

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Archdiocesan Center

171 CLIFTON AVENUE • POST OFFICE BOX 9500 • NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07104-0500 • (973) 497-4004 • FAX (973) 497-4018