



THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

May 22, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, the Michigan Attorney General's Office published its report on the historical record of allegations of clergy sexual misconduct in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. The report details numerous allegations involving minors and adults while refraining from making any determination about their credibility. A breakdown of those allegations is available on the diocesan website at diokzoo.org/protect.

Every cleric who engages in sexual misconduct, whether with minors or adults, commits a gravely sinful offense. It causes deep and lasting wounds which in many cases will never be entirely healed and which affect the entire Church. Foremost in our thoughts and prayers are the victim-survivors of abuse who know firsthand how deep those wounds are. Likewise, many of you in the pews have been spiritually wounded and have had your faith tested by the scandalous actions of those in the Church. The priests themselves who have remained faithful have also been deeply affected by the betrayal of those whom they had called brothers.

For any way that someone in Diocese of Kalamazoo has contributed to these wounds in the Body of Christ, I am deeply sorry. We will do what we can to help heal them. Individuals who have suffered abuse can call the Catholic Charities crisis hotline at 800-873-8336. The diocese will continue to offer the Trauma Recovery Program free of charge and will provide counseling and therapy to those who have been harmed by persons ministering in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. I will be offering a Mass of Reparation at the cathedral, and we will offer listening sessions in various locations. As always, allegations of abuse should be reported to law enforcement; the Attorney General's tip-line is 844-324-3374.

The Attorney General's report describes our past – a reality we must acknowledge and confront – but it does not define our future. Our child protection policies have been working. I am grateful to say that there is no priest of the Diocese of Kalamazoo active in ministry with a credible allegation of the abuse of minors. The reduction in incidents is significant, but as long as there are children entrusted to our care, we cannot rest in our efforts to protect them.

The sexual abuse of minors is widespread in our society more so than many of us are comfortable admitting, and it will take all of us working together to overcome this evil. We need to bring it into the light, be willing to talk about it, recognize its warning signs and take heed of them. And we must pray, because we cannot ignore the fact that this battle is not only physical but also spiritual.

In this struggle to protect children and eradicate abuse, I entrust us all to the prayers of the Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church. May she intercede for us before her Son as we strive to make our Church, our schools and parishes, and our entire society a safe place where young people can thrive and fulfill their true potential in Christ. Be assured of my prayers for all of you.

Sincerely in the Lord,

+ Edward M. Lohse

The Most Reverend Edward M. Lohse, JCD
Bishop of Kalamazoo