



OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

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For the last several weeks, I have been hearing from Catholics with many concerns and suggestions such as the ones detailed in today's press release.

Catholics are angry, confused, and in pain, and I hurt with them. My heart especially goes out to victim survivors. I have received letters from those who have been abused many years ago by a priest or representative of the church. Their wounds are deep, and the recent reports have opened these wounds once again. Their pain must move our hearts to solidarity and repentance. No child should ever be subjected to abuse, particularly by someone who is responsible for nurturing a child's faith.

Catholics also are concerned about action, and there have been a number of suggestions made to address this crisis in the Church. Some of them involve measures already in place, others require action on a broader scale, and a number of suggestions are good to consider for the future. Let me summarize some of the next steps that we are taking:

- This week I am traveling to Washington, D.C. to meet with the Administrative Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Cardinal DiNardo, President of the Conference, has proposed a three-point plan to conduct an independent review of events surrounding Archbishop McCarrick, provide clear paths to report misconduct or abuse by bishops, and to advocate and work for better procedures to resolve complaints against bishops. I support this plan and look forward to working with the bishops on a strong recommendation to our Holy Father.
- The Archdiocese is planning a report to the Catholic people about sexual abuse and how it has been handled in our Archdiocese. We will plan for publication in October.
- I am inviting Catholics to join me in a day of prayer and fasting on Friday, October 5. Individuals will be encouraged to observe this in their homes and parishes. I also will preside at a public prayer service that evening at Holy Family Church. The exact time of the service is still being worked out.

Sexual abuse is a deep wound in our Church and in our society, and I invite all Catholics and all in our community to join with me in prayer and action.

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
September 10, 2018