



Office of the Archbishop
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January 18-19, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This past Thursday, I released a report listing the names of fourteen people that the Independent Commission determined have credible evidence to support the belief that they engaged in sexual misconduct against minors and/or vulnerable adults. The Commission made their determinations after reviewing all the personnel files of the Archdiocese of Anchorage. The report is painful to read, especially for those who have been victimized, and for those who know any of the persons named. The report is available on the archdiocesan website at archdioceseofanchorage.org.

To the victim-survivors of clerical sexual abuse, I want to say that there are no words that can restore the innocence that was cruelly and unjustly stolen from you. That your trust was betrayed by a priest or other minister of the Church whom you had a right to expect would protect you compounded the harm done to you. It is with humility, sorrow, and shame that I apologize to you, your family, friends, and community in the name of the Church for the grievous harm you suffered. I also apologize to our parishioners, faithful priests, deacons, sisters, religious, employees, and volunteers for the failure of bishops and church leadership that has greatly contributed to the crisis.

If you have been sexually abused by clergy or other representatives of the Church and have not yet reported the abuse, please consider disclosing what happened to you. The best way to do so is to report it to your local law enforcement agency. You may also contact the Archdiocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Jenny Michaelson, LBSW, at (907) 297-7786 or jmichaelson@caa-ak.org, and we will do our best to help you and assist with reporting to law enforcement.

This is a difficult time for all of us in the Archdiocese, but much more so for those who suffer from clerical sexual abuse. Let us offer our prayers for them and for all those affected by the release of the report this past Thursday.

Respectfully and sincerely in Christ,

Am

Bishop Andrew E. Bellisario, C.M.
Apostolic Administrator of Anchorage