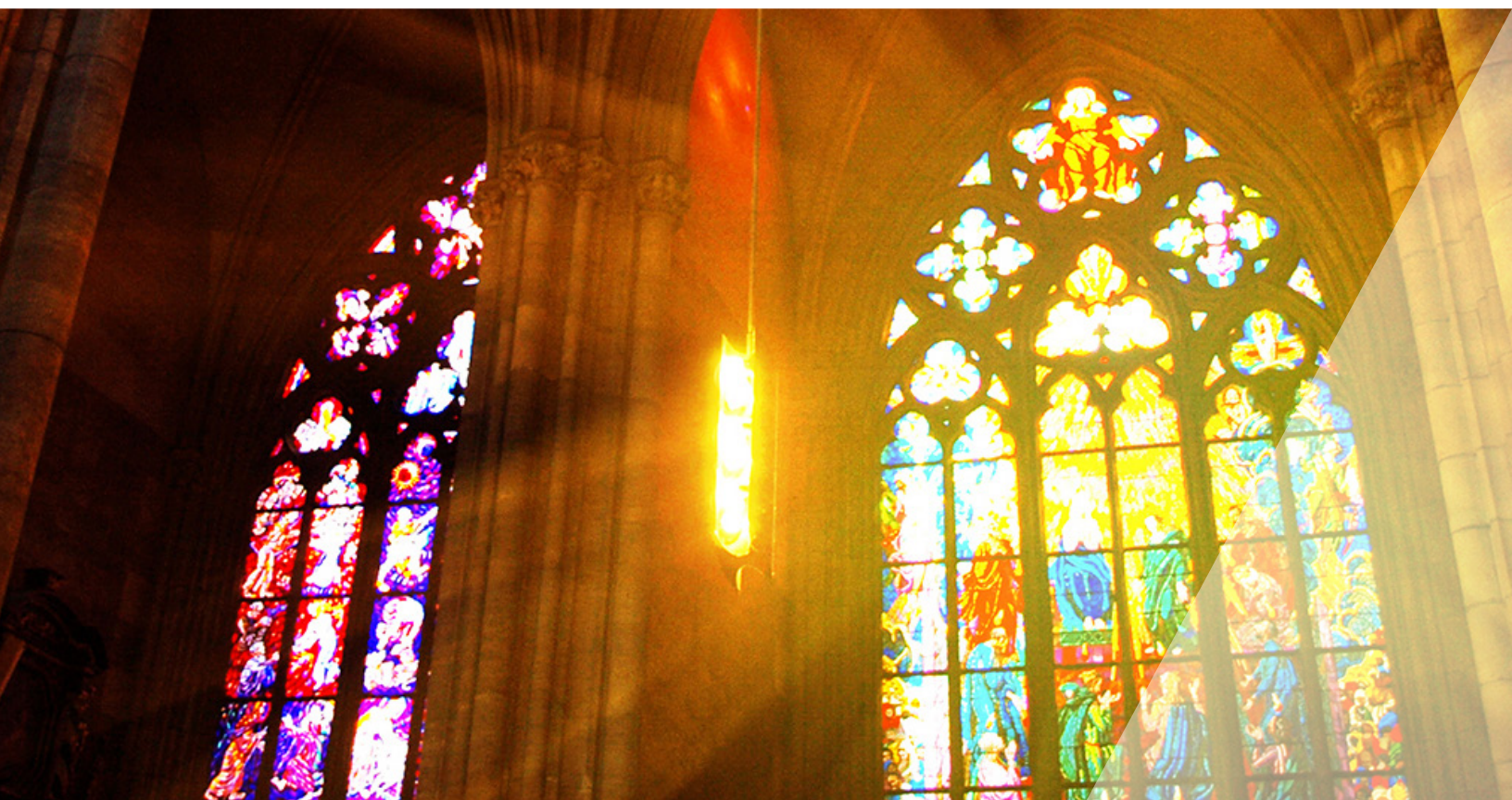




JEFF ANDERSON &  
ASSOCIATES PA



Clerical Sexual Abuse in the  
**Diocese of Ogdensburg**

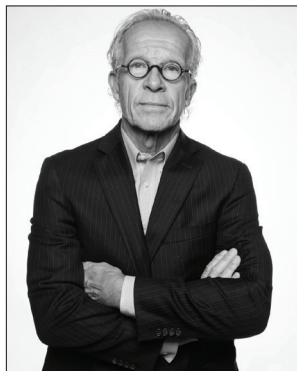
# Purpose & Background

This report contains the names of clergy associated with the Diocese of Ogdensburg who have been accused of committing sexual offenses against minors. The vast majority of the claims against these individuals have not been evaluated in a civil court. Accordingly, the allegations should be considered just allegations and should not be considered proved or substantiated in a court of law. All individuals should be considered innocent until proven guilty. In many situations, the statute of limitations has expired preventing the cases from being heard in a court of law.

It is believed that the Diocese of Ogdensburg does not make available to the public the full history, knowledge and context of the sexually abusive clerics. This report is an attempt to compile information already available to the public from various sources in the public media; bishopaccountability.org; and other sources that have attempted to chronicle this information for public use. This report is intended to raise awareness about the important issue of clerical sexual abuse, provide the public with vital information including assignment histories, and provide awareness of the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program available to survivors. Assignment histories are approximations and were compiled from the Official Catholic Directory, bishopaccountability.org and media reports.

## Jeff Anderson & Associates, P.A.

Jeff Anderson & Associates, P.A. pioneered the use of civil litigation to seek justice for survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Through its work, Jeff Anderson & Associates, P.A. seeks to bring hope, healing, accountability and justice to survivors of child sexual abuse. The attorneys have advocated for survivor rights in New York for many decades, having filed their first lawsuit in New York on behalf of a child sex abuse survivor in approximately 1988. In addition to seeking legal accountability, the firm has supported survivors of abuse by bringing public awareness to the cause and even testified before the state legislature endorsing reforms to the statute of limitations. Recently, Attorney J. Michael Reck filed the first case alleging that a Catholic Diocese in New York was committing a public nuisance by refusing to disclose the identity and history of its sexually abusive priests.



Jeff Anderson



J. Michael Reck

# The Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program (“IRCP”)

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has announced the creation of the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program (“IRCP”). Similar programs are already in existence in the Archdiocese of New York; Diocese of Brooklyn; and the Diocese of Rockville Centre. The IRCP is a third party administered fund that will compensate some survivors of childhood sexual abuse by priests. Survivors can keep their identity fully confidential. Currently, the IRCP is available only for survivors who previously reported their abuse. It is possible the program will be made available in the future to survivors of abuse who have not yet reported their abuse.

While the IRCP does provide some measure of justice and accountability, it is also complex and requires a survivor to waive his/her future rights if a settlement is received. A survivor participating in the IRCP can enroll in the program alone or may wish to retain an attorney to assist them. An attorney can communicate directly with the IRCP and the Diocese to shield the survivor from further trauma.

A deadline of May 31, 2018 exists for those who qualify for the IRCP in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

# Diocese of Ogdensburg

The Diocese of Ogdensburg was created on February 16, 1872. The most northern Diocese in New York State, Ogdensburg comprises eight counties, 12,036 square miles, 99 parishes, approximately 500,000 people and 126 priests.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg can be viewed as a microcosm of the national problem of priests sexually assaulting minors because the diocese fails to fully disclose its knowledge of sexually abusive priests. Upon instituting a zero tolerance policy in 2002, half of the eight publically known perpetrators were removed (Fathers Gillette, Shurtleff, White & Wisniewski). One priest, Fr. John Fallon, pleaded guilty to distributing child pornography.

In 2002, Diocesan Administrator Monsignor Richard Lawler stated that since 1950, 56 people, 37 of whom were minors at the time, have made sexual-abuse allegations against 35 clergymen. The diocese determined that the allegations against 23 of the priests were credible.

The identities of all 35 priests have not been disclosed to the public. In the interest of public safety the identities and the histories should be disclosed.

The following names are priests connected to the Diocese of Ogdensburg accused of committing sexual offenses against minors.

## Fr. John J. Fallon



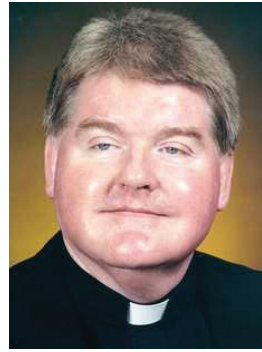
**Ordination:** 1955

**Notes:** In 1985, Fr. John J. Fallon was arrested on charges of receiving child pornography in the mail. Fr. Fallon pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five years' probation, including six months of psychiatric therapy.

### Assignments:

1956-1960	Holy Family, Watertown, NY
1961	Holy Name of Jesus, Faust, NY
1962-1968	St. Mary, Ticonderoga, NY
1969-1975	St. Matthew, Black Brook, NY
1976-1985	Holy Angels, Altona, NY
1986	Unknown
1987	Absent on sick leave
1988	St. Joseph's Home, Ogdensburg, NY (Chaplain)
1989-1999	Absent on sick leave (Albuquerque, NM)
2000-2002	Retired (2000: Albuquerque, NM; 2001-2002: Syracuse, NY)
2003	St. Pius X Home, Inc., Syracuse, NY
2004	Tommy Coyne Residence at Dillon Hall, Syracuse, NY
2/5/2005	Died

## Fr. Theodore M. Gillette



**Ordination:** 1978

**Notes:** Fr. Theodore M. Gillette was removed from his parish assignment in 2002 as a result of an allegation of child sexual abuse.

### Assignments:

1979-1981	Holy Name, Au Sable Forks, NY
1982-1983	St. Bernard, Saranac Lake, NY
1984-1987	Notre Dame, Ogdensburg, NY
1988	St. Augustine, Peru, NY
1989-1993	St. Hubert, Star Lake, NY
1994	St. Raphael's, Heuvelton, NY
1995-1999	St. Paul, Black River, NY
2000-2002	St. Paul, Black River, NY; St. Rita, Deferiet, NY
2003-2013	Unknown
8/31/2014	Died

## Fr. John Hunt



**Ordination:** 1969

**Notes:** In 2006, Fr. John Hunt resigned as pastor of two parishes and was placed on administrative leave in the wake of allegations of "inappropriate sexual behavior."

### Assignments:

1970-1971	St. Mary, Champlain, NY
1972-1974	St. Alexander, Morrisonville, NY
1975-1980	Wadhams Hall, Ogdensburg, NY (Director of Development)
1981-1986	St. John the Baptist, Keeseville, NY
1987-1990	St. Francis of Assisi, Potsdam, NY
1991-1995	St. Patrick, Watertown, NY
1996-1999	Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg, NY
2000	St. Francis of Assisi Campus Parish (Newman Center) Church, Potsdam, NY
2001-2002	St. Thomas More Church, Canton, NY; St. Francis of Assisi Campus Parish (Newman Center) Church, Potsdam, NY
2003	St. Henry Church, De Kalb, NY; Sacred Heart Church, Edwards, NY
2004	St. Henry Church, De Kalb, NY; Sacred Heart, De Kalb, NY
2005-2006	St. Henry, Gouverneur, NY; St. Anthony of Padua, Old Forge, NY; St. Bartholomew, Old Forge, NY; St. William, Deans, Old Forge, NY
2007-2018	Unknown

## Fr. Liam O'Doherty



**Ordination:** 1965

**Notes:** In 1979, a Franklin County grand jury accused Fr. Liam O'Doherty of sexually abusing three children in the mid- to late 1970s. The misdemeanor charges were dismissed shortly thereafter. In the early 2000s, four women filed civil lawsuits alleging that Fr. O'Doherty sexually abused them as children. Fr. O'Doherty was reportedly removed from ministry and no longer functions as a priest. As of 2003, he was reportedly residing at Vianney Renewal Center in Dittmer, Missouri.

### Assignments:

1966-1967	St. Lawrence, Canton, NY
1968	St. Joseph, Malone, NY
1969-1971	St. Patrick, Port Henry, NY
1972-1973	St. Mary, Clayton, NY
1974-1979	St. Ann, St. Regis Falls, NY
1980-1993	St. Andrew, Sackets Harbor, NY
1994-1998	St. Michael Church, Antwerp, NY
1999-2001	Absent on leave
2002	Absent on sick leave
2003-2018	Unknown

## Fr. Robert M. Shurtleff



**Ordination:** 1970

**Notes:** Fr. Robert M. Shurtleff was removed from his parish assignment in 2002 as a result of an allegation of child sexual abuse.

### Assignments:

1971-1974	St. Mary Church, Potsdam, NY
1975	St. Bernard Church, Saranac Lake, NY
1976-1980	On special assignment (Box 265, Potsdam, NY 13676)
1981-1989	On special assignment, registrar Clarkson College, Potsdam, NY (Box 265, Potsdam, NY 13676)
1990	St. Mary Church, Potsdam, NY
1991	Holy Name of Jesus (Faust) Church, Tupper Lake, NY
1992-1996	Holy Name of Jesus (Faust) Church, Tupper Lake, NY; Sunmount Developmental Center for Mentally Handicapped, Tupper Lake, NY
1997-2000	Holy Name of Jesus Church, Tupper Lake, NY
2001-2002	St. Mary of Clayton Church, Clayton, NY; St. John the Evangelist Church, Lafargeville, NY
2003-2018	Unknown

## Fr. Clark S. White



**Ordination:** 1974

**Notes:** Fr. Clark S. White was removed from his parish assignment in 2002 as a result of an allegation of child sexual abuse.

### Assignments:

1975-1976	St. Alexander, Morrisonville, NY
1977-1978	Holy Family, Watertown, NY
1979	Unknown
1980-1983	St. Alphonsus, Tupper Lake, NY
1984-1985	St. Lawrence, Louisville, NY
1986-1991	On duty outside the Diocese (St. Martin de Porres, Casilla 105, Mollendo, Peru)
1992	Special Assignment
1993-1995	St. Patrick Church, Brasher Falls, NY; St. Patrick Church, Hogsburg, NY
1996-2002	St. Patrick Church, Brasher Falls; St. Lawrence Church, North Lawrence, NY
2003-2018	Unknown

## Fr. David E. Wisniewski



**Ordination:** 1981

**Notes:** Fr. David E. Wisniewski was removed from his parish assignment in 2002 as a result of an allegation of child sexual abuse.

### Assignments:

1982-1984	Sacred Heart Church, Massena, NY
1985	Notre Dame Church, Malone, NY
1986	St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg, NY
1987	Unknown
1988-1989	Camp Adirondack, Raybrook, NY (minimum security of Clinton Correctional Facility)
1990	Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Redford, NY; Camp Adirondack, Raybrook, NY
1991-1996	St. Bernard Church, Lyon Mountain, NY; Lyon Mountain Correctional Facility
1997-2002	St. Mary Church, Glenfield, NY; St. Hedwig Church, Housville, NY; St. Peter Church, Lowville, NY
2003-2018	Unknown

## Fr. Paul F. Worczak



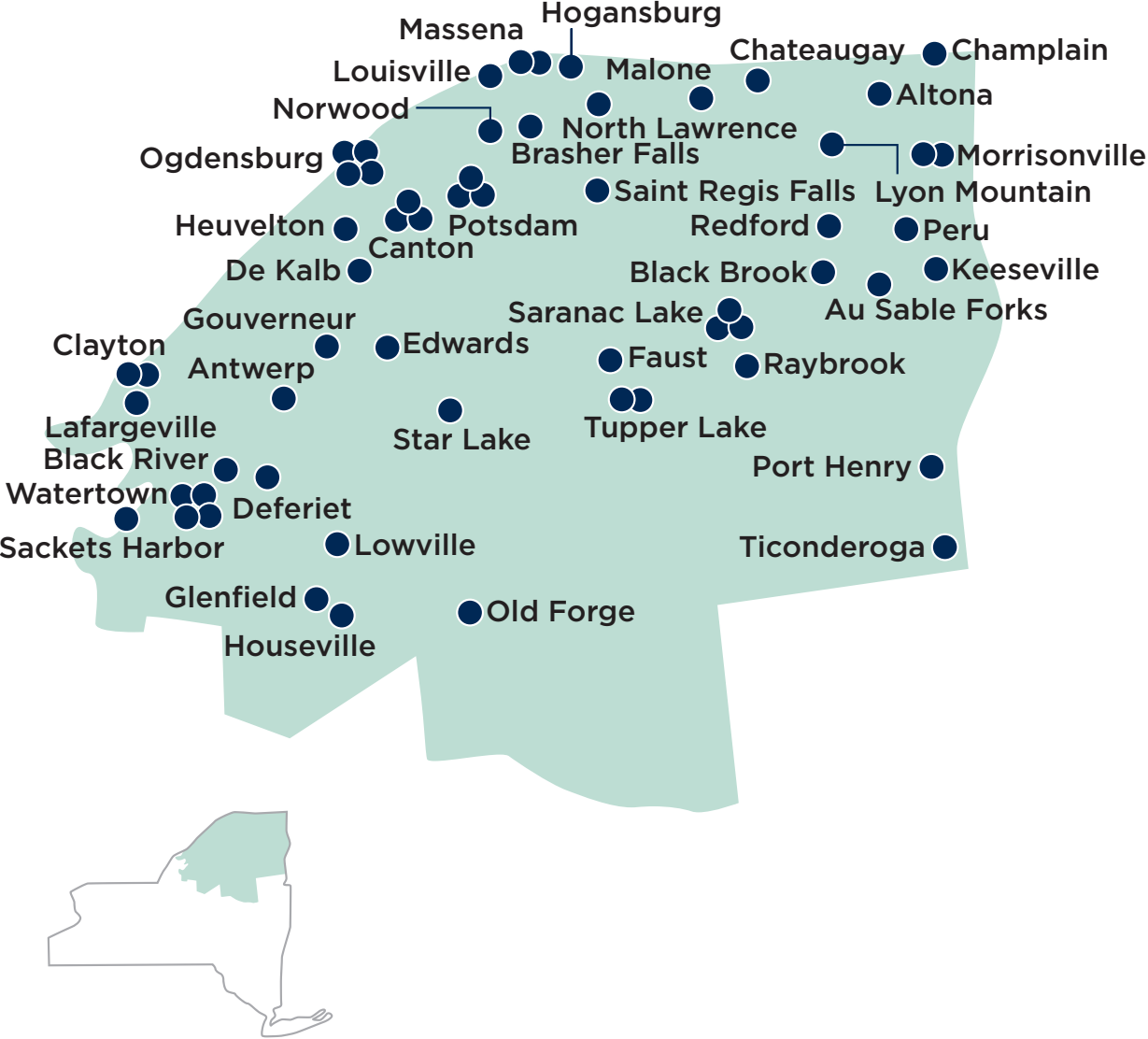
**Ordination:** 1968

**Notes:** Fr. Paul F. Worczak was removed from ministry in 2003 in the wake of an allegation that he had sexually abused a child in the early 1970s.

### Assignments:

1969-1970	St. Mary, Potsdam, NY
1971-1973	Holy Family, Watertown, NY
1974	St. Patrick, Chateaugay, NY
1975-1981	St. Thomas More, Canton, NY
1982-1989	St. Joseph, Massena, NY
1990	St. Lawrence the Martyr
1991-2004	St. Andrew Church, Norwood, NY
2005-2018	Unknown

# Locations of Perpetrators in the Diocese of Ogdensburg





# Important Documents for the Diocese of Ogdensburg

January 4, 2004

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord:

For the past couple of years, the problem of the sexual abuse of minors by clergy has been a topic of much discussion. While the Church has addressed this issue and established preventative measures in the past, we are still learning how to most effectively assist the victims of this abuse as well as prevent future incidents of sexual abuse. This has been distressing and a source of pain for all the faithful, including our priests, but it is only by facing the problem honestly and openly that we are able to bring healing to all involved.

As Bishop Barbarito did in the past, I sincerely apologize to anyone who has suffered sexual abuse from our clergy, and to their families who have carried this burden with them. Nothing I say can change the past, but I want you to know that the Diocese of Ogdensburg remains most willing to assist victims in any way.

The statistics that accompany this letter have been reported to researchers at the John Jay School of Criminal Justice in New York City, who will be releasing a combined report encompassing all the dioceses in the United States. This report will be issued in late February and the total number of victims, alleged abusers, and amounts of money spent to date for settlements and therapy throughout our country will be a further source of pain for the faithful. It is appropriate to note that the Catholic Church is the only institution, to my knowledge, to conduct such a study and release its findings. Considering that clergy abuse of minors is only the tip of the iceberg for society as a whole, it serves to highlight the social problem facing us as a nation and calls us to be ever more vigilant in protecting our young people.

Like every other diocese in the country, we have examined the records of complaints made in the Diocese of Ogdensburg from 1950 to today.

There have been fifty-six individuals, thirty-seven of whom were minors at the time of the abuse, who made complaints of sexual abuse against thirty-five clergy in the last fifty-three years. Twenty-three of the accused priests had credible allegations of sexual abuse of minors made against them. This is about 2.9% of the almost 780 clergy who have served here during those years.

Like many other dioceses, we find that while most of the abuse allegations report activity from years ago, it is in recent years that individuals have contacted the Bishop to notify him. The accompanying charts show the comparison between alleged incidents and subsequent notification of diocesan officials.

Part of the diocesan response to the issue of sexual abuse of minors is to assure the faithful that none of these priests remain in active ministry. As a result of the US Bishops' 2002 Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, eight priests were removed from active ministry and placed on Administrative Leave. The Charter provides that no priest who is on Administrative Leave may present himself or function publicly as a priest in any way; in addition, he is not to wear clerical attire. Another five priests had previously retired; three had died; four had left ministry in prior years; and three had transferred to other dioceses, but are no longer in ministry.

To date, the Diocese of Ogdensburg has paid \$209,000 in settlements to victims of clergy sexual abuse. Other costs (i.e., counseling for victims, treatment programs for clergy, etc.) have come to \$1,492,540.22. This money has come from the insurance fund of the Diocese, from a Special Care Fund, and from priests' bequests to the Diocese.

At no time, have any gifts designated for the annual Bishop's Fund or any other specified collections been used for these purposes.

An independent review, commissioned by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and conducted by the Gavin Group, reports that the Diocese of Ogdensburg is in full compliance with the provisions of the Charter. Among the provisions, I highlight the following:

No priest or deacon is permitted to remain in active ministry if the Diocese has found reasonable cause to believe that he sexually abused a minor at any time.

A Sexual Abuse Lay Review Board was established and has reviewed individual cases of sexual abuse and recommended a proper course of action for the Bishop/Administrator to take.

A Victims Assistance Coordinator has been appointed, who serves as an advocate for victims within the Diocese. The Coordinator is to ensure that the Diocese provides the assistance needed to victims. Our Coordinator is Terrienne Yanulavich, who may be contacted at: 518-483-1460.

We have instituted the "Protecting God's Children" program, in which every priest and Church employee/volunteer who works with children must participate. This includes criminal background checks for all current and future employees or volunteers who work with minors.

Diocesan policies may be found on the website for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg: [www.dioogdensburg.org](http://www.dioogdensburg.org)

For the complete text of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, see: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

Members of my staff have met with the District Attorneys of the Diocese or their representatives to review the Charter, to discuss the issue of sexual abuse of minors by clergy, and to assure them of our full cooperation should there be complaints of this nature in the future.

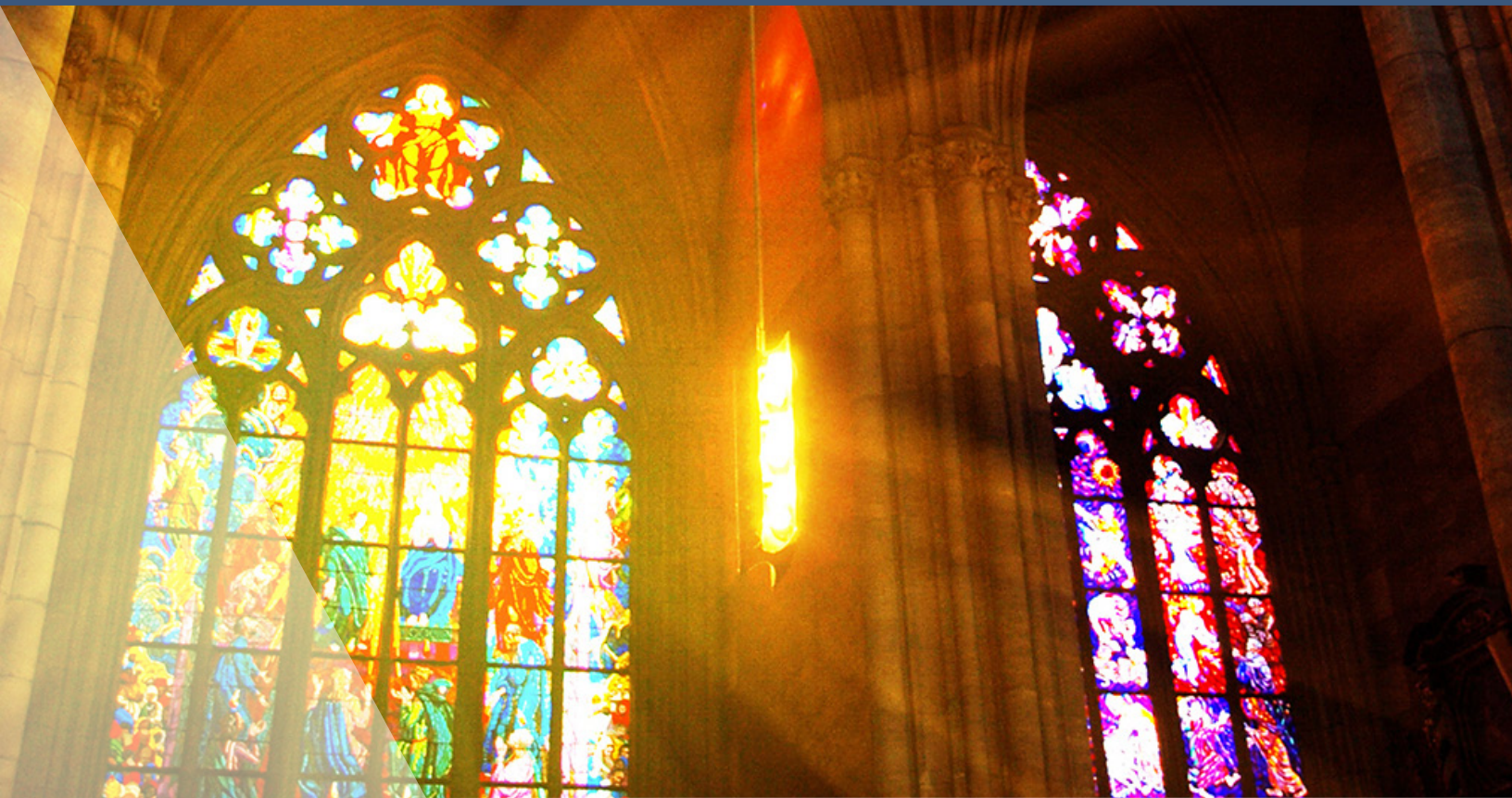
With you, I am grateful to the overwhelming number of our priests who have served and continue to serve so faithfully. They are truly committed to providing the best spiritual leadership possible, even in this age of fewer priests and greatly increased responsibilities. Please keep them in your prayers and encourage them in their ministry.

Again, I cannot express enough my sorrow that even one child was subjected to sexual abuse by a member of the clergy. It simply should never happen, and is a grave violation of the sacred trust placed in us by the Lord and by the faithful. Our sworn duty now is to promote healing and to do everything in our power to see that such incidents do not become a part of our future.

Asking God's blessings upon you, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Robert L. Lawler, Diocesan Administrator



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