



11.8.18

Diocese of Erie to create compensation fund

Bishop Lawrence Persico has announced that the Diocese of Erie will create an independently administered compensation fund for victims of abuse by clergy and laypersons in the Diocese of Erie.

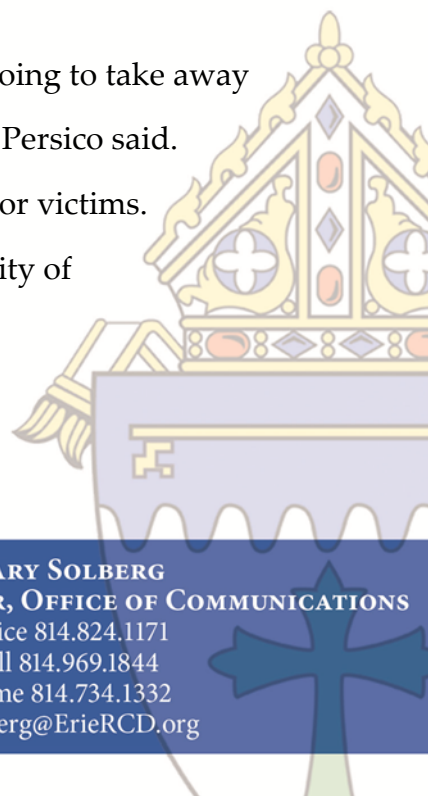
The development of a fund is a very complex and vital undertaking, with new considerations being brought forward on a regular basis. Even as the diocese is now working to comply with the significant requests and added financial burden of the recently announced federal grand jury investigation, creating a just compensation fund remains a top priority.

“I know that no amount of financial compensation is ever going to take away the pain and anguish victims endured in their childhood,” Bishop Persico said. “But we have a responsibility to provide some measure of justice for victims. This will be only one step of the response of the diocese to the reality of

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ANNE-MARIE WELSH
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Office 814.824.1167
Cell 814.746.6889
amwelsh@ErieRCD.org

MARY SOLBERG
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Office 814.824.1171
Cell 814.969.1844
Home 814.734.1332
msolberg@ErieRCD.org



sexual abuse in the church, but it is a very important one. We hope it will demonstrate, in a tangible way, our deep remorse and sorrow for what happened to victims.”

Bishop Persico has previously indicated that the Diocese of Erie strongly supports the following recommendations of the grand jury including:

- Removing the criminal statute of limitations for child sexual abuse going forward;
- Strengthening and expanding laws regarding mandated reporting of abuse;
- Abandoning the use of confidentiality agreements unless requested by a victim/survivor.

The Diocese of Erie is finalizing the parameters of its fund and will announce more specifics when all of the details are in place.

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