



The Byzantine Catholic
Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
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**STATEMENT OF METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP SKURLA ON THE REPORT OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA GRAND JURY
(September 5, 2018)**

We, as members of the Catholic Church in Pennsylvania, cannot help but be profoundly saddened by the revelations of child abuse committed by clergy and the response or lack thereof of diocesan officials described in the recent Pennsylvania Grand Jury report issued after its investigation of six Pennsylvania Roman Catholic dioceses.

The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh was not included in the Pennsylvania Grand Jury's investigation. The Archeparchy is a separate church and is relatively small both in the number of parishes and clergy and in the number of parishioners when compared with those Roman Catholic dioceses that were investigated. The Archeparchy's experience is that relatively few allegations of sexual abuse of children have been received.

It is the policy of the Archeparchy to report all allegations of sexual abuse of children to the proper civil authorities regardless of when such alleged abuse occurred. It is recognized that the civil authorities are better suited to investigating such allegations and proceeding with any warranted prosecution.

Consistent with the policy of the Archeparchy to report all allegations of sexual abuse of children to the proper civil authorities regardless of when such alleged abuse occurred, the Archeparchy had already notified the appropriate law enforcement/district attorneys of such allegations it received prior to the Pennsylvania Grand Jury's report. And, in each such instance, the Archeparchy provided pertinent information and offered to be of any further assistance. The Archeparchy is committed to continuing to report to appropriate law enforcement any such allegations that it receives. Further, reported allegations are also reviewed by the Safe Environment Board of the Archeparchy for recommendations of canonical actions in compliance with 2002 *The Charter for the Protection of Children*.

The Archeparchy and I offer heartfelt compassion for all who have been victimized by any clergy. I am truly sorry that any clergy has betrayed and abused the trust of the faithful and, particularly, the trust of children. The Archeparchy stands ready to assist victims. Those in need should contact the Archeparchy's Victim Assistance Coordinator: 724-504-9588 or courtneym.ryan@gmail.com. For further information for the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh Safe Environment Program, connect to the website at <http://www.archpitt.org/victims-assistance/>

The Archeparchy is committed to providing a safe environment for all children in its churches, programs, and activities. Such commitment involves education, continued training to reinforce appropriate behaviors, and mandated reporting by all clergy, employees, and volunteers who come into contact with children.

The Archeparchy shall continue to be vigilant and will not waiver in its obligation to provide a safe, welcoming, and prayerful place for those who seek Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ William C Skurla

Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D.
Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh