



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017

OFFICE OF THE APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR

January 15, 2019

Dear Brother Priest,

By way of letters to you, I have tried to keep you informed of the issues involving Archbishop McCarrick and be transparent beginning with my statement that I was “shocked and saddened” when on June 20, 2018 the Archdiocese of New York made public that an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor had been made against then-Cardinal McCarrick and it had been investigated and found credible and substantiated by the New York Archdiocesan Review Board. Prior to this public release, no allegations of improper conduct by Archbishop McCarrick had been made to the Archdiocese of Washington.

When the allegation was made public, I responded to questions about whether I was aware of allegations or rumors of the sexual abuse of minors by Archbishop McCarrick. I indicated that I was not. In response to similar questions, I indicated that I was also unaware of rumors or allegations of Archbishop McCarrick’s improper and sexual activities with seminarians or priests.

However, and this I bring to your attention again, in 2004 in the course of an investigation into the allegation of sexual abuse involving a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh serving on the faculty of Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in the Archdiocese of Baltimore and an adult seminarian over an extended period, I did receive a report from the Pittsburgh Diocesan Review Board with a detailed account of the abusive sexual activity involving the faculty member. At the conclusion of this report, the survivor also indicated that he had observed and experienced with the then-Bishop McCarrick what he described as “inappropriate conduct.”

In response to the allegation, the Pittsburgh priest was immediately removed from ministry and, at the same time, the entire report was provided to the Apostolic Nunciature. As I have indicated to you in the past, I believe that I had acted responsibly and hearing nothing more of the matter which at the request of the survivor involved was to be kept confidential, I did not avert to it again. Thus, 14 years later when I was asked if I had any previous knowledge of allegations against Archbishop McCarrick, I said I did not. Only afterwards was I reminded of the 14-year-old accusation of inappropriate conduct which, by that time, I had forgotten.

Nonetheless, it is important for me to accept personal responsibility and apologize for this lapse of memory. There was never the intention to provide false information. In fact, all those years ago the priest in question was immediately removed from ministry and the report was sent to the Nunciature.

Recently, I have also learned of the distress that this whole matter has caused the survivor who first brought to light the charge against the Pittsburgh priest faculty member.

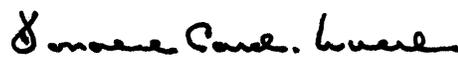
I have apologized to this survivor for any of the pain and suffering he endured in that long abusive relationship with the priest and also for any pain or embarrassment he also endured over the years from the actions of then-Bishop McCarrick.

Mostly, however, I wanted to apologize for any additional grief my failure might have also brought to the survivor. My hope is that now that all of this matter is public and the Holy See is adjudicating the allegations against Archbishop McCarrick, my apologies might be of some help.

I have already spoken to the survivor involved expressing my apologies in the hope that in them he might find some comfort.

With every personal good wish, I am

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald Cardinal Wuerl". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Donald Cardinal Wuerl