

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**



(717) 657-4804
FAX (717) 657-1370
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17111-3710
Bishop'sOffice@hbgdiocese.org
www.hbgdiocese.org

October 22, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This past week, we confirmed that the Diocese of Harrisburg received a subpoena from the United States Justice Department for records related to clergy sexual abuse of minors. We are fully cooperating with this investigation, just as we did with the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General's investigation.

This new investigation is still in its early stages and at this time, we do not have details on how the investigation will be conducted, how long the investigation will last or its implications. As this information becomes available and as we are legally able to do, we will share details of the investigation with your pastor and in *The Catholic Witness*.

I wish to reassure each of you again of my and the Diocese's commitment to providing healing to survivors of clergy abuse and protecting all children in our care. Through the policies which have been in place for the past 15 years, we as a Diocese have trained more than 32,000 adults (clergy, seminarians, teachers, employees, volunteers, vendors, etc.), through more than 50,000 hours of training programs, how to recognize and report suspected child abuse. During this same time, more than 60,000 youth in our schools and religious education programs have completed our Safe Environment Training programs. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to visit our new website, www.youthprotectionhbg.com, to learn more about the many safeguards in place in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

The Diocese and I, as your bishop, have pledged to be open and transparent regarding the issue of child sexual abuse and our past. It is my hope you have found the many articles published in *The Catholic Witness*, our release of the list of priests and seminarians accused of child abuse, my commitment to host Listening Sessions in the near future and our continued efforts to provide you with answers to your questions, a demonstration of our commitment to this pledge and to transparency. I also wish to reaffirm that as of today, no funds have been collected from your parish for the purpose of paying the Diocese's legal fees or survivor settlements.

I look forward to speaking with you in the coming months during our Listening Sessions. May God bless you for your continued faith and may Mary, our Mother, watch over our Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronald W. Gainer".

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer