

ARCHDIOCESE CONTACTS AREA PROSECUTORS
PLEDGES TO COOPERATE AND COLLABORATE ON ABUSE CASES

In a letter delivered to the prosecuting attorneys in the six counties of the Archdiocese of Detroit, a commitment was made on Friday, April 12, to cooperate and collaborate on cases involving allegations of criminal sexual conduct by priests.

The letter is from Msgr. Walter Hurley, who has been designated by Detroit archbishop Adam Cardinal Maida to coordinate efforts with the prosecutors. Msgr. Hurley has also been asked to oversee the revision of the current archdiocesan policy on sexual misconduct. He is pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Farmington.

The content of the letter follows:

“Cardinal Adam Maida has asked me, as his representative and that of the Archdiocese of Detroit, to respond to the request of various county prosecutors for information regarding allegations of criminal sexual conduct by priests of the archdiocese. As you know, the archdiocese encompasses Lapeer, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties.

“I write to assure you that the archdiocese will welcome the opportunity to collaborate with each of your offices in the investigation and reporting of allegations of sexual misconduct with minors. We are certainly willing to provide your respective offices reports of alleged sexual abuse of minors by clergy received by the archdiocese over a reasonable period of time.

“We also believe that it will be of great assistance in our own internal work in the Church to report immediately to your respective offices any new reports of such nature as provided by MCL 722.623. I have asked Thomas Van Dusen, an attorney for the archdiocese, to contact and meet with you either individually or collectively to coordinate the transfer and scope of this information. It would be helpful if we could have some common understandings.

Be assured that we welcome this new stage of cooperation between the archdiocese and the various civil jurisdictions to protect the well being of those most vulnerable in our society, our children.”

The archdiocesan policy on sexual misconduct by clergy was first promulgated in 1988. It has been revised twice, once in 1993, and again in 1999.

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