

Archdiocese of Detroit

Issued Wednesday, 12th May 2004 (16h50)

Statement from Archdiocesan Director of Communications

IMMEDIATE REACTION TO CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT FILED IN DETROIT

“Although apparently shared with the news media at an event staged Wednesday afternoon when filed, the Archdiocese of Detroit has not yet seen the lawsuit in which it is named. The approach utilized in the filing of this case does appear to be consistent with what SNAP and the attorneys working for them have employed elsewhere around the country— a class action lawsuit heightens the profile of the advocacy group and at the same time identifies potential clients.

“As it relates to the handling of cases involving the sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy, the Detroit archdiocese signed a voluntary agreement with the prosecutors in southeast Michigan two years ago; according to civil authorities, that reporting process has worked and has worked well. Earlier this year, the Detroit archdiocese was further commended by the National Review Board subsequent to an extensive audit of its policies and procedures. There is no time limit or restriction on bringing forward a complaint to the Detroit archdiocese. Pastoral care is extended and, when and where indicated, professional counseling is provided.

“The information shared with the Catholic households in the Detroit archdiocese in February, including the policy and status of current cases, the safe environment program, and contact numbers for reporting abuse, is posted on the archdiocesan web site www.aodonline.org.”

Statement from Ned McGrath
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Archdiocese of Detroit
05.12.04