

Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

February 10, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has received word that the Philadelphia District Attorney's office will release a Grand Jury report today which focuses on matters relating to the sexual abuse of minors.

The Archdiocese has not yet received the report and, therefore, is not able to respond or comment on its contents. It is our intention to consider carefully and take very seriously any observations and recommendations of this Grand Jury.


Since the publication of the Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* in 2002, the Archdiocese has been committed to its implementation. We remain committed to our efforts to protect children and to providing outreach to victims, in the full implementation of the *Charter*. In this spirit we also welcome the opportunity to enhance this important work through an ongoing collaboration with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, and to reflect upon the Grand Jury's actions and the recommendations they make.

I know the release of this report will be painful and my deep concern is for all of those who have been abused. I urge all the faithful of the Archdiocese to pray for, to extend every concern for, and to remain open to understanding the experience of victims. It is in that spirit that we will reflect upon the Grand Jury's actions and the recommendations they make.

This news is also discouraging for our priests who labor faithfully in our parishes and institutions throughout the Archdiocese. Please pray for them and take this opportunity to affirm their work, to encourage them and to express your gratitude for their dedicated priestly ministry.

Through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we recommit ourselves to pray and to labor in His Spirit to do everything possible to rectify the injustices suffered by victims.

Sincerely in Christ,


Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia