

September 5, 2023

Dear Friends,

I write regarding Archbishop Lori's letter today about discussions taking place to respond to anticipated lawsuits against the Archdiocese as a result of the Child Victims Act (CVA), which goes into effect on October 1st. As the Archbishop indicates, his communication was prompted by the CVA as well as a media report concerning internal conversations about the Archdiocese's options for responding to lawsuits, including the filing for bankruptcy protection.

Like the Archbishop, we stand in solidarity with victim-survivors of child sexual abuse. We support efforts to equitably compensate them for their suffering, knowing that no words and no compensation can ever fully relieve them of their pain.

Further, while Catholic Charities values its partnership with the Archdiocese, it is important to clarify that the two institutions are separate. This means no funds donated to Catholic Charities can or will be diverted to address lawsuits filed against the Archdiocese. Additionally, no Catholic Charities services or programs will be directly impacted by their response, however they proceed. Catholic Charities remains secure and committed to our mission of improving the lives of Marylanders in need.

Please join me in praying that a solution that is just and equitable for all can be reached and that both victim-survivors and our Church will experience the healing love of God's mercy through this painful and difficult process.

Peace



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