

NEWS RELEASE
Catholic Diocese of Peoria
May 23, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Diocese of Peoria Statement on the Release of the
Illinois Attorney General Report*

PEORIA, IL: Today, the Illinois Attorney General's Office released its long-awaited report regarding sexual abuse in the Catholic Church. They reviewed files dating back to the 1800s. The report highlights criminal behavior that has historically been present in every sector of human life, and which is all the more shocking when perpetrated by those who have publicly committed themselves to serving God and his people. Much of the information in the Report dates to more than half a century ago. The steps that the Church in the United States put into place some twenty years ago have gone a long way to address the scourge of sexual abuse and it is our sincere hope that other areas of our society will implement similar safeguards that protect the most vulnerable among us. Over the past twenty years, the Diocese under Bishop Daniel Jenky's leadership, with the assistance of the Diocesan attorney Patricia Gibson, the Vicars General and the Diocesan Review Board has endeavored to treat all survivors with the utmost respect and sensitivity. As noted in the Attorney General's report, the Diocese has implemented significant changes that have made the Church safer for children. The Diocese reports all allegations of abuse to civil authorities. To the Diocese's knowledge, there is not a single priest of the Diocese with a substantiated allegation who is currently in ministry or who has not been reported to authorities. Bishop Louis Tylka and the Catholic Diocese of Peoria remain committed to our efforts to heal the wounds of those who have suffered abuse and to the protection of God's children everywhere.

#####