

MOST REVEREND
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I join my brother bishops in expressing remorse, anger, shame and sorrow at the recent news of disturbing and reprehensible behavior attributed to some of the Church's shepherds. Let us pray for all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them. It is sad and unfortunate that we continue to be stunned by revelations such as the news about Archbishop McCarrick and the report of the Pennsylvania grand jury. We must find ways to protect all in the Church against predators and anyone who would seek to conceal their behavior.

A plan to change the manner of dealing with this "moral catastrophe" has been presented by Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, president of the U.S. Bishops' Conference. The plan outlines the following goals: (1) to investigate past abuses at the episcopal level, (2) to develop new, confidential channels to report complaints against bishops; and (3) to more effectively resolve future complaints. The goals of this plan will be pursued according to the following criteria: proper independence, sufficient authority, and substantial lay leadership, which are crucial in assuring impartiality and trust. May God grant us wisdom and guidance as we seek justice and healing for the victims of abuse and for the entire Church.

I wish to express my strong support for the plan and invite the prayers of all the faithful of the Diocese of Biloxi that the Holy Spirit guide us to address this spiritual crisis in an effective manner.

I am remembering you in my prayers and Masses I offer daily.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louis Kihneman".

Most Reverend Louis F. Kihneman, III
Bishop of Biloxi