

EDUCATIONAL REFERENCES

The STV Parish Community striving for integrity and accountability in response to the sexual abuse crisis in the Church. As relevant news and background items come to light, we will highlight them here for your reading and thought.

AUGUST 30th

Special Announcement #1 WATCH's Lay Leadership Task Force is pleased to announce a new initiative, The Lay Preaching Ministry, which will begin after Labor Day. Several members of our parish community, holders of advanced degrees in theology (and/or having formal Scriptural training), will be offering reflections on the Sunday readings. These short videos will be available on the parish website, on the parish Facebook page, and in the worship emails. We look forward to having our faith enriched through the voices of these lay ministers.

Special Announcement #2 On Wednesday, August 12th, WATCH chairperson Mia Holman, along with Liam Dempsey representing St. Elizabeth's CART (Catholics Actively Rebuilding Together, Chester Springs), met via Zoom with Archbishop Perez. The purpose of the meeting was to ask the Archbishop about his plans for transparency and accountability regarding the clergy sexual abuse crisis, and to begin an ongoing dialogue about the future of our Church. The meeting began with a prayer offered by Mia, acknowledging our desire to work together toward a more holy and Gospel-centric Church, and asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance. In terms of how the Archbishop plans to promote accountability and transparency, he explained that he has only been in this position 5 months, he is still getting a lay of the land, and that things have been complicated by COVID. Archbishop Perez said that what he has seen so far is that the Philadelphia Archdiocese has done a lot in terms of transparency and reaching out to victims: "incredible department of investigations", "experienced and competent people in victims' assistance". The Archbishop acknowledged that in the past there were grave errors made by bishops, but that there has been much change in the Church overall since the Dallas Charter of 2002. The Archbishop expressed his openness to suggestions of future actions to improve transparency and accountability.

The Archbishop was asked about his five Advisory Councils that are listed in the organizational chart on the Archdiocesan website. Who are on these? How does one get a seat on a council? Is there a good representation of the demographics within the Archdiocese? He said the members of the Council of

Priests are elected by other priests; the Finance Council are all lay people, and are appointed; The Pastoral Council are lay people recommended by the deans (there are 12 deaneries within the Archdiocese, each has a priest serving as dean). Archbishop Perez has met (via Zoom) once so far with the Pastoral Council. It seems the current members have been in place since Archbishop Chaput's tenure. AB Perez hopes in the future to have more diversity on the Pastoral Council, and he especially wants young adults represented.

The meeting ended with a request for a commitment from Archbishop Perez for ongoing dialogue, hopefully at some point in person, and with more groups similar to CART & WATCH. He was amenable to a request to meet every 3-4 months.

AUGUST 23rd

Lawsuit Accuses retired bishop Hubbard of Albany of Alleged Abuse

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/accountability/fifth-lawsuit-accuses-retired-bishop-hubbard-albany-alleged-abuse>

A Slew of Church Abuse Lawsuits Hinges on State Court Decision

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/accountability/slew-church-abuse-lawsuits-hinges-state-court-decision>

Pope Cleans House in Poland After Abuse Cover Scandal

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/accountability/pope-cleans-house-poland-after-abuse-cover-scandal>

What the Church Has Done to Fight Clergy Sex Abuse Since 2018 ¹s 'Summer of Shame'

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/08/13/clergy-sex-abuse-grand-jury-2018-summer-shame>