



CATHOLIC LEAGUE

*For Religious
and
Civil Rights*

September 6, 2018

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Hon. Barbara Underwood
New York Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Albany, New York 12224-0341

Dear Attorney General Underwood:

Your decision to launch a grand jury investigation of Catholic dioceses—to the exclusion of all other religions, private non-sectarian institutions, and public sector entities—is manifestly unjust and indefensible. Are you saying that the sexual abuse of minors is peculiar to Catholic institutions?

Would you convene a grand jury on criminal behavior, focusing exclusively on black neighborhoods? Then why are you singling out the Catholic Church for an investigation of sexual misconduct? Because a grand jury probe of Catholic dioceses in Pennsylvania turned up old cases of abuse? Imagine what a grand jury investigation of the public schools would find *about current cases of abuse!* Will you launch one?

Are you aware that the New York Archdiocese has an Independent Compensation and Reconciliation Program that is designed to deal with such issues? Are you aware that it was Cardinal Timothy Dolan who employed this initiative to uncover allegations against Theodore McCarrick, resulting in his resignation as a cardinal? Do you know of a single minister, rabbi, or public school official who ever outed one of his own colleagues for such offenses?

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

William Donohue, Ph.D.

President