



Pastoral Letter

The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes, XI Bishop of Newark

To be read in all congregations of the diocese, or otherwise made available to all members by email or other distribution.

December 3, 2021

Dear Companions on the Journey.

This fall, in response to New Jersey's temporary extension of the Civil Statute of Limitations for Sexual Assault which ended on November 30, the Diocese of Newark and some of our parishes received notices about claims of childhood sexual abuse in our churches and/or affiliated ministries. There were fewer than ten claims made and they ranged in time from the 1950s to the 1990s. This was disturbing news and we have moved quickly to respond to the claims.

Our immediate concerns are for the welfare of any victims and for the needs of the churches involved. The diocese and parishes are represented by legal counsel who are providing much-needed advice and guidance as we seek to be just and fair in this process.

While this has been distressing news, it has also reminded us of the importance of being a safe church that honors the dignity of all people. Our commitment to safe church practices continues along with our prayers for all involved in these claims.

Grace and peace,

The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes
XI Bishop of Newark