

My dear people,

Shock and sadness are but two emotions experienced upon seeing media reports that our Bishop has been named in a lawsuit alleging damages due to child molestation some forty years ago. The August 15 edition of The Post and Courier reported the allegation with a front page headline.

I write now to offer some context. In November, New York State enacted its Child Victims Act which temporarily lifts the statute of limitations on molestation cases. The first day to file was August 14. Among the hundreds of cases filed, were the allegations against Bishop Guglielmone alleging abuse from 1978-1979. The Bishop adamantly denies the charge and looks forward, he said, to proving his innocence.

What was reported in The Post and Courier on August 15 did not include the statement by Bishop Guglielmone's attorney. I quote, in part:

*These allegations are false, provably false. As the plaintiff admitted to a family member, he made the story up in order to get money from the Church ("it's worth a try," the plaintiff said... Although he (Bishop Guglielmone) was under no obligation to do so, he submitted himself to a polygraph examination, which he passed.*

I spoke to the Post and Courier reporter this morning and asked why this quote was not included in the article. His response was that "they" (presumably the Diocese) had sent out a lot of information and this was not seen at first. I told him that other media (Live 5 News) had posted the quote from the attorneys by 4:12 P.M. The reporter said that he did not see the quote from the attorneys until around 11:00 P.M. by which time the paper had gone to press. He (Glenn Smith) assured me there would be a follow-up and I thanked him.

We must pray for all involved, especially those damaged by abuse of any kind, those injured by false accusation, those who must judge cases, and even those who might falsely accuse.

Father McInerney