



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

October 29, 2018
Month of the Holy Rosary

Dear Parishioner of Our Lady of Refuge Parish,

It is my sad duty to write to share some upsetting information about your pastor, Bishop John Jenik. Although I regret having to be the bearer of bad news, I know that you would prefer to hear such news directly from me, and not second-hand or in the news media.

As you know, in October 2016, the Archdiocese of New York launched the *Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program* (IRCP), to assist victim-survivors of sexual abuse by a bishop, priest, or deacon of the archdiocese achieve a sense of resolution and healing for the suffering they have endured. Although the IRCP is administered by outside experts, Mr. Ken Feinberg and Ms. Camille Biros, the archdiocese also pledged that, if an allegation of abuse was brought concerning a bishop, priest, or deacon who was still alive, the allegation would immediately be reported to the proper District Attorney for whatever action they wished to take; it would also be handled according to archdiocesan protocol and procedure, which includes an investigation by an independent team of investigators, all former Federal agents, and reviewed by the independent *Lay Review Board*, made up of judges and other attorneys, psychiatrists and psychologists, parents, child care experts, and others, who would render a decision on whether the allegation was credible and substantiated.

During the IRCP process, an allegation of inappropriate behavior with one person was brought against Bishop Jenik, who has served at Our Lady of Refuge since 1978. This was the first time any such allegation about him was ever made. Although the alleged incidents occurred decades ago, the *Lay Review Board* has concluded that the evidence is sufficient to find the allegation credible and substantiated. Although Bishop Jenik continues to deny the allegation, loyal priest that he is, he has stepped aside from public ministry, and, as we await Rome's review, may not function or present himself as a bishop or priest. The case has now been referred to the Holy See which will make the final judgment and decide an appropriate resolution.

Bishop Jenik has asked to be able to write to you as well. His letter is enclosed.

If anyone has any allegations or concerns about Bishop Jenik, please contact the Bronx District Attorney. We also encourage you to contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator at victimsassistance@archny.org, so that we might also offer our support to you.

Please pray for all those involved in this case, particularly the victim-survivor who brought forward the allegation, and all victim-survivors of abuse, wherever it has occurred. Know that the parishioners of Our Lady of Refuge will have a special remembrance in my prayers as well.

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Tim. Michael Dolan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

+Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York