



THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

DIOCESAN STATEMENT

Childhood sexual abuse is a grave evil and we are committed to doing all that we can to work toward eradicating all forms of child abuse and to provide support and healing to survivors.

The sexual abuse of minors by priests is tragic, appalling, and inexcusable. What was shared in recent public media is something no child should endure. The suffering inflicted on these individuals lasts a lifetime, and that suffering affects us all as the Body of Christ.

Bishop Lohse once again affirms his invitation to meet with any individual who so desires and who has suffered abuse at the hands of the Church. We remain steadfast in our commitment to discovering the truth in connection to all allegations. We renew our request that anyone who has additional information concerning these allegations come forward either to the Michigan Department of the Attorney General (844-324-3374) or to the Diocese of Kalamazoo's crisis hotline (800-873-8336).

We continue to strengthen our efforts to protect children and youth and to educate people to recognize signs of behavior that puts youth at risk. Our newly revised *Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth* reinforces our efforts with enhanced screening processes, rules for events and activities involving children and youth and clear articulation of mandatory reporting procedures. [see diokzoo.org/protect for more information and resources.]

In regards to the recently aired local news segment, we are aware of disturbing allegations against Father Carl Peltz* and we take them very seriously. Based on the information we have at our disposal, however, including the Attorney General's report and the records of the diocese, we have been unable so far to substantiate these allegations. New information may change that reality, in which case the diocese would amend its assessment.

The Diocese of Kalamazoo welcomes any additional information that may shed light on any past or present cases of child sexual abuse, as well as any indications of actions that would disqualify and prohibit someone from working with children and youth in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

*Father Carl Peltz served in the Diocese from 1998 until his death in 2015.