



MATTFLYNN

GOVERNOR

Matt Flynn's Work with the Milwaukee Archdiocese

The Catholic Church is a home for 1.2 billion people worldwide. It is an institution that has done great good. But it is not without fault.

Until now, I have not talked publicly about my involvement with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee as their attorney. Now that this painful time in our state's history has been raised, I will correct the record and set forth my role in cleaning it up.

I was proud to represent the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. While the vast majority of priests are good people, devoting their life to the service of others, I was, and continue to be, deeply horrified and grieved by the actions of some priests within our Archdiocese. I believe that those who committed horrible crimes should be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

I represented the Archdiocese. I did not represent priests who committed abuses.

I have been a Catholic all my life. When I learned of the abuses, I knew that to be in alignment with my conscience, I had to do something, not merely voice disapproval. In my work almost twenty years ago, I worked with others to put into place procedures to identify and remove abusive priests, notify the authorities, and prevent their transfer. It was imperative that we work to create a system that would ensure that crimes such as these could never be committed and allowed to persist.

I also helped settle the cases with victims—many stemmed back to the 1960's, 70's and 80's—providing compensation and support, such as therapy, and in some cases, tuition. It was important to me that all victims be treated with dignity and respect. While no amount of money can make a victim of sexual abuse whole, we settled with victims to provide compensation.

I believe I made a difference. I don't know of any recurrence in the Milwaukee Archdiocese since my time serving as their attorney.

We all agree that the nature and scope of this tragedy is monumental, and that this should never have been able to take place. If it were possible to go back in time and protect these children, we all would. Because that is not possible, I did what I could within my role as an attorney. I worked to compensate victims and create changes to ensure that this could never happen again.

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