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IN RESPONSE

TO RELEASE OF CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE GRAND JURY REPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 16, 2018

Response to Release of Grand Jury Report

At Center for Victims, we are diligent in our efforts to support and advocate for survivors of sexual assault and rape. Yesterday, we were stunned by the enormity of the grand jury report on the sexual abuse of children by clergy in the Catholic Church. The sheer numbers of “predatory priests” and church hierarchy who had knowledge of these crimes and for decades conspired to cover them up shakes each of us to the core of our humanity. We mourn with those of you whose lives have been devastated as a result of the rupture of trust. We condemn the callous disregard for the well-being and innocence rightfully expected by children and families in relationship with any person of faith.

We support your need to speak, sit in silence, be outraged and cry. Those who have succumbed to addiction because there was no other way to reconcile the oppressiveness of their experiences with what they were told to believe in and expect from the church, those who out of desperation or out of absence of hope ended their own lives and those who may never fully recognize the connection between current day health issues and their history of abuse.

We want you to know that the staff and programs at Center for Victims are here for you and can be of assistance any time, 24 hours a day at 866-644-2882. You can call and speak directly with a trained counselor who can help you in the moment as well as connect you with services to help you move forward in your healing process. We applaud the courageous children and families who have carried the knowledge of these heinous crimes, had the backbone to speak up about it and were relentless in their attempts to expose these illegal acts. We celebrate your persistence and resilience.