



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office for Communications

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**Remarks by Bishop Walter A. Hurley on the release of the recent study:
*The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the
United States: 1950-2010***

“The recent study commissioned by the National Review Board and the bishops of the United States and conducted by City University’s John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York to better understand the problem of sexual abuse of minors was released today. The study entitled “The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States: 1950-2010” provides the church with additional information and data within a broader context of societal issues and other religious groups and organizations.

This research is a follow-up to the 2004 study, also commissioned by the National Review Board and the bishops of the United States and conducted by City University’s John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, which studied the nature and scope of sexual abuse of children and young people over a fifty-two year period from 1950 - 2002. The Nature and Scope report along with the recent Causes and Context findings are unprecedented and unique studies commissioned by the church. With these studies we are better able to understand what happened, what has been done and what needs to happen in the future as well as increase awareness and provide recommendations that strengthen our ongoing efforts to protect children and young people in our parishes and communities.

I ask for your continued prayers for all those whose lives have been affected by such tragedy.”

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley
Bishop of Grand Rapids
May 18, 2011

How to report sexual abuse of a minor by a member of the clergy:

If you believe you have been the victim of sexual abuse by a member of the clergy, I invite you to come forward and contact the diocesan Victim Assistant Coordinator (616-243-0491) or file a report with civil authorities (police, Department of Human Services).