



February 7, 2005 - Statement of the Archdiocese of Boston Regarding Verdict in Case Against Paul R. Shanley

(Boston, MA) February 7, 2005... The Archdiocese of Boston made the following statement regarding today's verdict in the trial of former priest Paul R. Shanley:

"Survivors of clergy sexual abuse, their family and friends have endured much suffering as a result of the depraved violations of human dignity perpetrated on them as children and teenagers. These sufferings are profoundly personal and damaging to both the psyche and the soul.

For many, the trial and testimony brought the intensity of these sufferings to the surface. It is important for the Archdiocese of Boston, in this moment, to again apologize for the crimes and harm perpetrated against children by priests who held the trust and esteem of families and the community. Survivors and families who bear the wounds of these shameful acts are held with great tenderness in our prayers.

In a particular way during this time of heightened distress for survivors of abuse and their families, the services of the Office of Pastoral Support and Outreach are available to them. The office is staffed by professional social workers and stands ready to listen and offer assistance."

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