

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



March 24, 2023

My Brothers in Christ,

Peace and All Good Things!

The report from the Georgia Prosecuting Attorneys' Council (PAC) will be released today. I am sure it will be a heavy blow to many of you. It will stir up painful memories in our communities. I want you to know my fellow bishops and I are here to support you.

In the aftermath of the Pennsylvania report, the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Savannah invited Georgia's Attorney General to review our files and we agreed that the PAC would undertake that review. We knew the process would be painful, but is a necessary step toward full transparency and healing.

The report does contain positive elements, clearly stating that no case needed to be referred for criminal prosecution, commending the work of the archdiocese in our efforts to create and maintain a safe environment and commenting on our good relationship with law enforcement and state agencies.

If you are feeling overwhelmed by your emotions in reaction to this report, I urge you to seek support from your bishops, fellow priests or a mental health resource available to you. I have included some resources at the end of the memo sent with this letter. I have also included some talking points to help you answer questions you may get and a statement that you can share with your community.

If someone discloses abuse to you outside of confession, report it immediately in accordance with archdiocesan policy. If the abuse is still happening, call local law enforcement and then notify our Victim's Assistance program. Even past abuse must be reported. Take every report seriously. We cannot allow any kind of abuse to happen in our communities.

You are in my prayers. I ask that you keep me in yours.
Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv." The signature is written in a cursive style.

The Most Rev. Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv.
Archbishop of Atlanta