

Juleanna Culilap

27th November 2018

Dear Attorney General Ken Paxton,

I am a current senior from Liberty High School in Frisco, Texas. As a young woman raised in a Catholic household, I have been alarmed by the abundance of accusations and files released regarding many prominent Church figures and their history of abuse. And despite the need for restructuring and fixing within the Catholic Church itself, I believe that the government can also play a role in providing justice for the victims involved in all the allegations.

Within my local church community, I have noticed great discontent expressed not only towards the clergy but also frustration towards the lack of justice against child abusers. Catholic leaders simply have not taken full responsibility for the situation and have not released their documents to the public, despite having access to decades of counts of sexual abuse.¹ Instead of relying on the Church to disclose information on their own time, the government can use their power to provide justice in this situation.² In fact, an investigation on just one member of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston was able to uncover documents detailing potential criminal activity by several other priests.³ If we can encourage such investigation to take place state-wide, the process of providing justice in these concerning cases of sexual abuse can be solved more efficiently.

Therefore, I urge you to take action and launch an investigation of abuse within the Catholic clergies in our state of Texas. With a proper government investigation, families and victims can recover and hopefully be more comfortable in practicing their faith once more with less fear and distrust in their leaders of faith. Texas citizens deserve to be able to go to church feeling comfortable, and children and victims of abuse deserve to see the government put effort into holding their perpetrators accountable.

Sincerely,



Juleanna Culilap

¹ O'Malley, John W. "The Scandal: A Historian's Perspective." America, May 27, 2002, 14. General OneFile (accessed November 30, 2018). <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/A86207409/ITOF?u=j043905006&sid=ITOF&xid=296f1f1a>.

² Jenkins, Jack. "Seven states to investigate diocesan abuse records." National Catholic Reporter, September 21, 2018, 9+. General OneFile (accessed November 30, 2018). <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/A557612431/ITOF?u=j043905006&sid=ITOF&xid=bdcb1416>.

³ Keyser, Matt, and Tina Macias. "Sources: More Clergy Abuse Files Found during Search of Archdiocese 'secret Archives.'" KIII TV. November 28, 2018. Accessed November 30, 2018. <https://www.kiiitv.com/article/news/local/sources-more-clergy-abuse-files-found-during-search-of-archdiocese-secret-archives/285-618390274>.