


October 18, 2002


**Statement Regarding Vatican response to the norms submitted for review
following the meeting of U.S. Bishops in June 2002.**

“We welcome the news that the Holy See is in strong solidarity with the bishops of the United States about our firm policy regarding the sexual abuse of minors by clergy. We are happy that the Holy See has upheld the fundamental principle of the Charter adopted in Dallas by the U.S. Bishops and articulated so clearly by our Holy Father, that there is no place in the priesthood for one who would harm a child.

“We are also glad that Church leaders in Rome have invited representatives from among U.S. bishops to meet with them and form a joint commission to iron-out any details of our policy that are seen as confusing or imprecise, so that ultimately it can be implemented in the most fair, consistent and effective way possible. This only goes to illustrate that the Holy See wants our policy to work and making it work means anticipating any possible problems, and resolving them before Vatican approval is given.

“Nothing the Vatican has asked us to do will result in any changes of the action taken during the last six months here in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, nor will it change our commitment to addressing this issue. That means no priest in this archdiocese with a substantiated allegation of sexual abuse involving a minor will be allowed to publicly function as a priest.”

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Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of Milwaukee

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Most Reverend Richard J. Skiba
Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee