

Saint Mary's Catholic Church



111 Hampton Avenue
Greenville, South Carolina 29601
864.271.8422 Phone
864.370.9880 Fax
www.stmarysgvl.org

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Dear People of St Mary's Church and School,

This morning in the State of New York, a law suit was filed which alleges that Bishop Robert Guglielmone molested a minor in 1978 or 1979 while he was a priest of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Bishop Guglielmone vehemently denies this allegation and is cooperating fully with the Holy See to complete an investigation which he is certain will exonerate him of all charges.

I am morally certain that Bishop Guglielmone is an innocent man who is falsely accused of a crime he did not commit, but if that is so, one must wonder why such an accusation would be made against him now. And the answer is simple: money. The State of New York recently changed the laws which regulate the prosecution of crimes against minors, and among those changes is a one year lifting of the statute of limitations on offenses in the past. That so-called Look Back Window opened today in New York, and it is no coincidence that the suit against Bishop Guglielmone was filed today.

I know that we are all exhausted by the constant reports of clergy misconduct which have flooded the media in the past year, but the crimes and sins of the past must be uncovered if justice is to be done for the victims and the Church is to be purified and reformed as she must be. In that sense, I believe we should be grateful that the truth is being told, no matter how burdensome the knowledge of the truth may be.

But false accusations against the innocent, particularly when they are made with a cynical intent to extort money from the Church, are in themselves a grievous crime against justice, and I believe that is exactly what is happening now in this ludicrous charge against our good bishop. In the weeks ahead, we will learn much more about this matter, but for now I remind us all that everyone must be presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. I have supreme confidence that Bishop Guglielmone is innocent and will be revealed as such when the full truth is known by a public process that will no doubt be very unpleasant but which will establish his innocence of this alleged crime.

May the LORD of mercies be gracious to our Bishop Robert, to all who have been harmed by bishops and priests, and to all who have been scandalized by the sins of the clergy.

Fr Jay Scott Newman
Pastor of St Mary's Church and School