



ARCHDIOCESE
OF SEATTLE

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

November 3, 2015

Statement by Archbishop J. Peter Sartain on the movie *Spotlight*

Spotlight, a movie on child sexual abuse in the church, portrays the sad reality of sexual abuse by Catholic priests. Although it depicts a deeply painful chapter in church history, it is important that the movie acknowledges the role of victims and survivors as well as journalists who courageously brought this tragic reality to the attention of the public. Anything that raises awareness about the crime of sexual abuse against children is a significant reminder to the church and all of society of its tragic consequences for victims, survivors and their families. As my predecessors and I have done in the past, I again offer my sincere and heartfelt apology to all who have been wounded in any way by child sexual abuse at the hands of those acting in a ministerial role on behalf of the Catholic Church. As a church, we have learned a difficult lesson from the mistakes made in the past. We have taken these lessons to heart and established strict protocols to ensure that children and all vulnerable people in our care are protected from any form of abuse. In this archdiocese we began taking steps to address the problem of child sexual abuse in 1984, and this film serves as a reminder that we must remain vigilant and not become complacent in our protection of children and all vulnerable people. For the church teaches, and we believe, that all human life is precious in the eyes of God and must be protected.

#

Anyone who has knowledge of sexual abuse or misconduct by a member of the clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Archdiocese of Seattle is urged to contact law enforcement or other civil authorities and call the archdiocesan hotline at 1-800-446-7762.