

"THE KEEPERS" FACT CHECK



"That a priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore committed such horrific acts against innocent young people is a painful fact that we acknowledge and genuinely apologize for.

We also pray for the women and men who bravely shared their stories.

As much as I would like to change what happened decades ago, it's impossible.

However, I can and will do everything possible to protect all children within the Archdiocese from ever being victimized like this again."

- Most Rev. William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore

The following are important clarifications of information included in the Netflix series.



1992- FIRST ALLEGATION OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY A. JOSEPH MASKELL

The Archdiocese's first knowledge of an allegation of child sexual abuse against A. Joseph Maskell was when Mrs. Jean Wehner reported in 1992 that he abused her while she was a student at Archbishop Keough High School in the 1960s and 70s. At that time, the Archdiocese knew of no one else alleging that Maskell sexually abused them or anyone else.



ARCHDIOCESE LAUNCHED OWN INVESTIGATION TO CORROBORATE

The Archdiocese made every effort to corroborate the initial allegation to determine credibility through its own investigation and conversations with attorneys representing Mrs. Wehner. We engaged a private investigator to try to find additional victim(s). Archdiocesan staff and its investigator spent hundreds of hours and talked with dozens of witnesses, including school officials and former students. No corroborating accusations were found. When additional people accused Maskell in 1994, we permanently prohibited him from public ministry.



NO RECORD OF MOTHER'S COMPLAINT

Episode 7 claimed that Charles Franz's mother reported her son was sexually abused by Maskell in late 1960s. There is zero reference to that event in our files. The first the Archdiocese learned of an allegation by Mr. Franz was in a meeting in October 1994.



REASON FOR SEEKING TREATMENT CLEARLY COMMUNICATED

The Archdiocese clearly communicated why Maskell was sent to The Institute of Living in Connecticut. March 4, 1993, upon the completion of Maskell's evaluation and treatment, a report was written. Signed by Peter M. Zeman, M.D., Senior Director the report stated, "This evaluation was requested by the Archdiocese in the face of charges of sexual abuse of a minor female which is alleged to have occurred over 20 years ago."



ARCHDIOCESE OFFERS REWARD

In the 1990's, the Archdiocese offered a \$6,000 reward to help find Sister Cathy's killer.



FULL COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Archdiocese fully cooperated with law enforcement and continues to offer full support for their efforts to solve Sister Cathy's murder. The former Baltimore County Police Chief and a Retired Circuit Court Judge speak openly about this cooperation and the positive relationship between the Archdiocese and law enforcement.



ESTABLISHMENT OF A LEADING INDEPENDENT CHILD ABUSE REVIEW BOARD

The Archdiocese's Independent Child Abuse Review Board led the way nationally. According to Mary Kay Finan, a member of the Board when Maskell was removed from ministry, actions included removing the abuser, offering survivor counseling, mandated training for those working with children, and publicly informing schools and parishes about the abuse.



ARCHDIOCESE HELPS PASS S.O.L. BILL

In 2017 the Maryland legislature passed a bill for victims of child sexual abuse, extending the statute of limitations on civil claims. Though present when it was passed, the producers of "The Keepers," included no footage or even a mention of the bill's passage. The Church worked closely with Delegate C.T. Wilson to ensure that survivors were better served by this new law.



STRICTER STANDARDS PROVIDE SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN

The Archdiocese of Baltimore is fully committed to the protection of children and young people. To provide a safe environment for those entrusted to its care, the Church:

- immediately reports to civil authorities all allegations of abuse
- employs a zero tolerance policy for employees and volunteers credibly accused of committing abuse
- conducts thorough screening and background checks of all employees and volunteers having substantial contact with children
- provides ongoing education in detecting and reporting suspected child abuse for its employees, volunteers, as well as children themselves
- has an independent review board of mostly-lay professionals that reviews the Church's handling of abuse cases and advises on related matters
- cooperates with civil authorities
- Adam Rosenberg, Executive Director of the Baltimore Child Abuse Center, applauds the strength of the Archdiocese's commitment to child protection and the relationship between the Center and the Archdiocese. "The AoB has created policies and standards that other institutions have adopted/ modelled to guide their own."

SOURCE:

Archdiocese of Baltimore

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