

Dear Basilica Parishioners,

Now that we have concluded our nine day Novena prayer for victims of abuse and for our Archdiocese, I thought you should be aware that Archbishop Wilton Gregory released a statement with the names of Archdiocesan priests and religious against whom there has been a "credible accusation" of sexual abuse against a minor. Local media also reported on this recently. The list covers the period from the founding of our Diocese in 1956 to the present. If you wish, you can see the complete list on the Archdiocesan website at: <http://www.archatl.com/>.

According to the list, two of the credibly accused priests on the list served at Sacred Heart: John Douglas Edwards (1987) and Raymond Horan (1968-1973-74). Both of these men are now deceased.

Along with the Archbishop, I express my regret for the harm these and other individuals have caused to so many and for the betrayal of trust for our Catholic family. If at any time you become aware of a person harmed by a member of the clergy, religious, Church employee or volunteer, living or deceased, please report this to the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese operates a 24-hour hotline for persons who wish to report abuse. This number is: 1-888-437-0764.

In addition, Fr. John, Deacons Mike and Marino, and I are also available at any time to listen to you and to offer you care and assistance.

Monsignor Ed Thein