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Statement from Archbishop Robert J. Carlson and the Archdiocese of St. Louis Regarding Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt's Report on Clergy Abuse in the State of Missouri

ST. LOUIS – The Archdiocese of St. Louis has cooperated in full transparency with the Missouri Attorney General's Office throughout their investigation and will continue to cooperate fully with civil authorities on cases of clergy abuse of a minor. The Attorney General's report confirms the progress the archdiocese has made in implementing the protocols to protect our children; and while we cannot predict nor control all human behavior, those protocols have resulted in no acts of physical sexual abuse since the Charter of 2002. We are taking the Attorney General's recommendations to the Catholic Church into careful consideration and will continue to evaluate and enhance our safe environment programs for the safety of all of our families.

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis says that the archdiocese will continue to work transparently with all authorities on these matters:

"In August of 2018, when I invited the Attorney General's office to investigate all allegations of sexual abuse of a minor, we promised full cooperation and unfettered access to archdiocesan records. Following that investigation and today's report, the Archdiocese of St. Louis remains committed to working with authorities, to bringing healing to victims and their families, and to ensuring a safe environment for all of our children."

-Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson Archbishop of St. Louis

The Archdiocese of St. Louis strongly encourages anyone who has yet to share their story of abuse to please come forward to the local and state authorities. Anyone who has knowledge of sexual abuse of minors or misconduct by a member of the clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, can also call the Office of Child and Youth Protection at 314-792-7704.

Please direct questions to <u>Peter Frangie</u>, Executive Director of Strategic Communications and Planning.

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