



THE  
**SAINT PETER DAMIAN**  
SOCIETY

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**DALLAS, TX** – The Saint Peter Damian Society, after learning of the most recent reports from the investigations in Illinois, reiterates its call for justice and accountability in the Church hierarchy. The state’s attorney general, Lisa Madigan, reports that the Church withheld the names of at least 500 priests accused of sexual abuse of minors.

Further, Madigan said the dioceses “will not resolve the clergy sexual abuse crisis on their own.”

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has made remarks following the news as well: “Convert and hand yourself over to human justice, and prepare for divine justice.”

Taken together, these calls reiterate numerous points on the Society’s list of requested changes, namely the encouragement of investigations by well-intentioned civil authorities, as well as the immediate delivery of those guilty of civil crimes to the appropriate criminal punishments. The Society, with its requests backed now by a call from Pope Francis himself, reiterates our plea for cooperation with law enforcement to end the scourge of sexual immorality in the clergy.

The society urges dioceses to listen to this advice and to adopt procedures to be fully transparent, just, and holy.

**QUOTABLES:**

*"With this new statement from Pope Francis, we pray those in the Church hierarchy will cooperate with law enforcement so justice is served. If clergy sincerely cooperate, it will be a huge step forward in the healing process of the Church and its image." - Anthony Mazur, SPDS Media Director*

More information can be found at [stpeterdamiansociety.com](http://stpeterdamiansociety.com).

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