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August 23, 2018

Archbishop Robert Carlson
Archdiocese of St. Louis
20 Archbishop May Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63119

Dear Archbishop Carlson:

Thank you for offering to cooperate in an independent inquiry by the Attorney General's Office into allegations of abuse against members of the clergy in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. My Office agrees to conduct such an independent review. We appreciate your leadership and your commitment to public transparency and accountability.

To conduct this review, my Office will assemble a team of experienced attorneys and career prosecutors to ensure a vigorous, searching, and comprehensive inquiry. We anticipate both reviewing documents and interviewing potential victims and witnesses to acts of alleged abuse. The Archdiocese's cooperation will be essential to permitting a full, fair, and comprehensive investigation.

The protection of children from criminal abuse is one of my Office's top priorities. I look forward to cooperating with you to ensure that the children of the Archdiocese of St. Louis are fully protected from any threat of abuse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joshua D. Hawley".

Joshua D. Hawley
Attorney General of Missouri