

October, 1, 2009

Dear Friends in Christ,

The news of child pornography charges against Bishop Raymond Lahey, are nothing less than shocking.

Bishop Lahey, the former bishop of the Diocese of Antigonish, Nova Scotia was also bishop of the Diocese of St. Georges, Corner Brook and was a priest and pastor in the Archdiocese of St. John's.

Since the information of the charges came out from the media on Wednesday, September 30th there has been a full range of emotions experienced by everyone.

There was shock, sadness and anger.

Shock because yet another priest - and a bishop of the church - was charged.

Sadness because these latest allegations are another setback for the Roman Catholic Church in Newfoundland and Labrador, a church in which we have been trying to restore people's faith after years of scandal.

Anger because of the nature of the allegations: child pornography is child abuse and exploitation.

Bishop Lahey has submitted his letter of resignation as Bishop of the Diocese of Antigonish to the Vatican which has been accepted.

We now must wait for this matter to work its way through the court process.

In the days and weeks that will follow I would ask that we pray for all involved - the people of the Diocese of Antigonish; the family, friends and former parishioners of Bishop Lahey especially those in this province; for all those that are victimized by pornography; and, indeed, for Bishop Lahey.

May we all find the faith and compassion in our hearts to support each other - we are all hurting - it is a difficult time for all involved.

This situation will stir up in people, again, all of the history of abuse that has gone on in the past. People become disillusioned. If you can't trust the chief shepherd, who can you trust? For now we put our trust in God and pray that, together, we can rebuild that trust again.

Yours in Christ,



MOST REVEREND MARTIN W. CURRIE, D.D.

Archbishop of St. John's