

National Black Church Initiative

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PRESS RELEASE

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National Black Church Initiative Urges Legislators to Pass Markey Bill

*NBCI will continue to stand for those who have been victimized
by the Church.*

The National Black Church Initiative reiterates its support for the Markey Bill. The bill simply lifts temporarily the statute of limitations so that those who were victimized by priests can receive some restitution. We believe that this is a righteous bill and we are shocked about the amazing opposition from the Catholic Church. They have spent tens of thousands of dollars to stop these victims from receiving any measure of closure. We wholeheartedly believe that Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio's warning is not only false in terms of the Church going bankrupt, but is inflammatory and wrong. The Church's opposition undermines the gospel. The gospel is for peace and justice and mercy and fairness for all of God's children. When the Church opposes the very principles that they are trying to uphold it should cause those of us of faith to tremble. Bishop DiMarzio's scare tactics that the sky will fall if this bill passes makes one sick to the stomach and also cheapens the faith of those who believe in the gospel.

The Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative, who has spoken out on this issue before, said, "I was so disappointed to read about Bishop DiMarzio's remark recently. It made me go into deep prayer and ask God why the church is scared to face its responsibilities to those that they have victimized. To my understanding this totally undermines Christ's message of hope and dignity for the souls of not only those who are lost, but those who have been victims of the Church's acts of cover-up and denial."

We strongly urge the Church to back down. This is not the holy work of the Church to oppose justice and peace for those who they have victimized. Christ's church is better than this, Christ's church is holy and without wrinkle. The actions of the Archdiocese of New York State and Bishop DiMarzio are inconsistent with the teachings and ethics of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 16,000 African-American and Latino member churches works to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare. In addition to our member churches, we have 18,000 sister churches. NBCI is a faith-based health organization dedicated to providing critical wellness information and preventive health screening to all of its members. The African-American community ranks first in eleven different health risk categories. NBCI's purpose is to partner with national health officials to provide health education, reduce racial health disparities, and increase access to quality healthcare.