

VATICAN STATEMENT AFTER MEETING WITH IRISH BISHOPS

COMUNICATO: INCONTRO DEL SANTO PADRE CON RAPPRESENTANTI DELLA CONFERENZA EPISCOPALE IRLANDESE E CAPI DICASTERO DELLA CURIA ROMANA

Questa mattina il Santo Padre ha incontrato nel Palazzo Apostolico Vaticano il Presidente della Conferenza Episcopale Irlandese, Em.mo Card. Seán Baptist Brady, Arcivescovo di Armagh e S.E. Mons. Diarmuid Martin, Arcivescovo di Dublin, per una valutazione sulla situazione della Chiesa in Irlanda a seguito della recente pubblicazione del "Murphy Commission Report". All'incontro hanno partecipato anche i più alti Responsabili della Segreteria di Stato e i Prefetti dei Dicasteri della Curia Romana competenti per l'argomento. Era presente anche il Nunzio apostolico in Irlanda. Riportiamo di seguito un comunicato sull'odierno incontro:

Today the Holy Father held a meeting with senior Irish Bishops and high-ranking members of the Roman Curia. He listened to their concerns and discussed with them the traumatic events that were presented in the Irish Commission of Investigation's *Report into the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin*.

After careful study of the Report, the Holy Father was deeply disturbed and distressed by its contents. He wishes once more to express his profound regret at the actions of some members of the clergy who have betrayed their solemn promises to God, as well as the trust placed in them by the victims and their families, and by society at large.

The Holy Father shares the outrage, betrayal and shame felt by so many of the faithful in Ireland, and he is united with them in prayer at this difficult time in the life of the Church.

His Holiness asks Catholics in Ireland and throughout the world to join him in praying for the victims, their families and all those affected by these heinous crimes.

He assures all concerned that the Church will continue to follow this grave matter with the closest attention in order to understand better how these shameful events came to pass and how best to develop effective and secure strategies to prevent any recurrence.

The Holy See takes very seriously the central issues raised by the Report, including questions concerning the governance of local Church leaders with ultimate responsibility for the pastoral care of children.

The Holy Father intends to address a Pastoral Letter to the faithful of Ireland in which he will clearly indicate the initiatives that are to be taken in response to the situation.

Finally, His Holiness encourages all those who have dedicated their lives in generous service to children to persevere in their good works in imitation of Christ the Good Shepherd.