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**AWAKE MILWAUKEE STANDS WITH SURVIVORS AFTER DEATH OF RETIRED
ARCHBISHOP WEAKLAND**

Catholic organization offers support to victim-survivors of clergy abuse and their loved ones

MILWAUKEE, August 30, 2022 – Since Archbishop Emeritus Rembert Weakland died last Monday, Awake Milwaukee has heard from many victim-survivors of clergy abuse and their loved ones that the attention to Weakland in recent days has brought up painful memories and strong emotions. For many, this includes renewed anger at Weakland’s pattern of concealing clergy sexual abuse and moving abusive priests to unsuspecting parishes, as well as the ways some Catholics continue to minimize the harm caused by this behavior.

Sexual abuse, especially abuse by a religious leader, is a deep and long-lasting trauma, and we urge all people to be mindful of this reality when they speak about Weakland’s legacy. For perspectives from five victim-survivors interviewed by Awake, please visit today’s article at www.awakemilwaukee.org/blog.

As Catholics, we believe in praying for all who have died. While this includes Rembert Weakland on the day of his funeral, we also remember in our prayers today all victims of clergy sexual abuse, especially those who have died deaths of despair in the aftermath of their abuse. We pray for survivors who continue to work for truth, justice, and healing, and we call on our fellow Catholics to stand in solidarity with them today.