

Victim's Statement
at Franklin Sentencing
December 8, 2020

Pope Francis repeatedly has called the Church a *field hospital* as we reach out to those in greatest of need, those in need of healing, and those on the periferies of society. This ministry requires financial resources, resources that we were denied for years.

The local Church in the Catholic Diocese of Steubenville expresses its gratitude to those who exercised due diligence from the preparation of the financial forensic audit to the investigation into Mr. Franklin's actions by our federal authorites, including the present efforts by our judicial system.

Many people have had their trust in the Church compromised. We are all too aware it is easy and relatively quick to lose one's trust, but the arduous and longer road is in the work to regain that very same trust.

The Diocese of Steubenville, this *Appalachian field hospital*, has endeavored on this long road in order to be effective in sharing the faith, hope, and charity of Christ with all whom we encounter. Our success demands nothing less. Thank you.