



PROTECTION OF THE FAITHFUL

It is imperative that we continue to institutionalize the accountability and transparency of the Archdiocese in serving and protecting our faithful. This includes enhancing Archdiocesan policies and processes that ensure the protection of minors and seminarians. We must work collaboratively at all levels — including clergy, laity, government and law enforcement, victims and their families, and the faithful-at-large — to maintain and reinforce these policies.

What We Have Accomplished:

- In 2002, recognizing the importance of cooperation and communication and the need for clearly defined policies and procedures, and, in a continuing commitment to work together with state and local government to protect victims of crimes, the Archdiocese signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Prosecutors' Offices in the counties we serve. We continue proactive and full collaboration with law enforcement in our reporting.
- In February 2019, we published the names of 63 diocesan clergy who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor.
- The Independent Victim Compensation Program (IVCP) is in operation, as of June 15, 2019, paying reparations to victims of sexual abuse of minors by clergy.
- We have completed over 200 training sessions in 2019, educating hundreds of clergy, employees and volunteers to prevent, recognize, and report sexual abuse and exploitation. Our curriculum contains multiple options for recertification, required every five years.
- We have run more than 1,700 background checks in 2019 on clergy, employees and volunteers, also being updated every five years.
- We have met with and listened to survivors directly to offer assistance and healing with programs and services through the church.
- We have held three prayer services for survivors, their families, and the broader community of all the faithful to help foster healing.



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What We Have Accomplished:

- As Chair of the Committee of the United States Conference of Bishops (USCCB), which oversees the formation of priests and deacons, Cardinal Tobin requested new initiatives from that body to ensure a safe environment for seminarians.
- We contributed to the development of the USCCB Code of Conduct for bishops and the establishment of channels by which sexual misconduct or abuse of power by bishops can be reported and action taken. Protections are provided for whistleblowers.
- We are confident that our present consultation with the Holy See will result in concrete national policy in these two areas in the coming months.



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Our Road Ahead:

- We continue to extend support for survivors of clergy sexual abuse to ensure that the wounded have the ability to find comfort and healing in the manner most suitable to each of them.
- We continue to acknowledge and thoroughly investigate all allegations of abuse quickly and efficiently, and continue our full and proactive collaboration with law enforcement and state/local officials.
- As necessary, we will continue to update the list of diocesan clergy who have been credibly accused.
- We continue to examine all historic documents to ensure full transparency.
- We are enhancing existing protections established in 2002 under the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People to include the newest training and screening programs to ensure that the failures of the past cannot reoccur.
- We continue to support the Independent Victims Compensation Program with the other New Jersey dioceses.
- We maintain ongoing efforts to strengthen our policy of transparency and accountability.
- We are engaging and seeking participation from lay professionals on the Archdiocesan Review Board — the consultative body established to advise the Archbishop on matters related to abuse.
- In conjunction with our Victim Assistance Coordinator, we are customizing therapy programs to ensure that each survivor receives the appropriate treatment.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you observed evidence, within your parish and within the Archdiocese, that measures have been taken to protect the faithful?
2. What steps must still be taken to strengthen and affirm our commitment to this important pillar of our pastoral vision?
3. What actions can you take — as a member of the Church — to support this commitment?

