

# MCCARRICK REPORT : RESPONSE GUIDE



**"AND YOU WILL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH  
WILL SET YOU FREE." JOHN 8: 32**

## THE REPORT

- We welcome this report, as painful as it is.
- It is important to learn from the mistakes of the past so they are not repeated.
- The information in this report is important for the Church to fulfill our commitment to bring justice to victim-survivors of clergy sexual abuse and to ensure safe environments in our communities for minors and vulnerable adults, as well as those in preparation for the priesthood in seminary.
- With each report that is brought into the light, as a Church we are one step farther along on our journey of healing and taking accountability for the harm that has been allowed to happen.
- With Bishop Johnston's leadership, we are committed to authentic penance for these sins, a penance that demands compassion and justice for victim-survivors, honesty and transparency in communications, and commitment to institutional reform.
- We will take the next couple of days to begin to digest the full report, and share additional local and national reaction and guidance later this week.
- We look to restoration in Christ and encourage all to turn to prayer as we navigate this new journey. [see resources for parishioners below]

**MORE**

## HOW THE DIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY-ST. JOSEPH WORKS TO PREVENT CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE:

- The Office of Child and Youth Protection is located at the Chancery and staffed by a Director, Victim Services Coordinator and Safe Environment Program Coordinator who are available to assist. An Independent Ombudsman receives all reports of suspected sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable adults, investigates them, and conveys his findings to the Independent Review Board and the OCYP.
- We have an established commitment to a new era of hope and healing through our diocesan [Mutually Shared Vision](#) and a focus on Healing Our Family.
- Through surveys over the last 12 months, we have learned more about the impact of the clergy sexual abuse epidemic on our diocesan parishioners and priests. As a result, new resources will soon be available through a layperson-led program, called Journey to Bethany. You can visit [journeytobethany.org](http://journeytobethany.org) beginning on Tuesday, Nov. 10 to learn more and monitor for updates.
- Our diocesan leadership is gaining additional credibility at the national level as Bishop Johnston steps into the role of chair of the USCCB's Committee for the Protection of Children & Young People later this month. His nomination is a strong endorsement of his leadership and effectiveness in addressing clergy sexual abuse at the diocesan level.
- Our diocese trains clergy, employees and volunteers to create and maintain safe environments for children and youth and how to ensure concerns are addressed.
- Backgrounds of clergy, employees, and volunteers are evaluated to determine if someone should be allowed in ministry around children and young people.
- Clergy who transfer into service within the diocese to exercise ministry must undergo background checks, commit to the [Policy on Ethics and Integrity in Ministry](#), and undergo ongoing training in child protection. Additionally, those clergy from outside the diocese are required to have a letter of suitability to exercise any ministry in the diocese.
- Our diocesan [Policy on Ethics and Integrity in Ministry](#) spells out standards for acceptable behavior, with particular emphasis on what is and is not appropriate in activities with children and youth.

**MORE**

## **NATIONAL RESPONSE TO PREVENT CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE:**

- As of 2018 nationwide, more than two million parish employees and volunteers, and 4.2 million children have been Safe Environment trained to recognize the behavior offenders and what to do about it.
- Training was also provided to 159,764 educators, 258,978 other employees, 35,475 priests, 16,294 deacons, and 6,847 candidates for ordination.
- Background evaluations have been conducted on over 2 million parish volunteers and Church personnel who have contact with children.
- Seminary screening has been tightened to identify and reject potential abusers. Clergy found guilty of sexual abuse of minors are permanently barred from ministry.

## **RESOURCES FOR PARISHIONERS**

Rosary for Healing and Protection ([link](#))

Promise to Protect Prayer- Bilingual ([link](#))

Resources for Victims/Survivors and those who Support Them ([link](#))

10 Tips for Protecting Children & Offering Outreach to Victims/Survivors ([link](#))

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People Fact Sheet ([link](#))

## **RESOURCES FOR CLERGY AND SUPPORT STAFF**

Resources for Victims/Survivors and those who Support Them ([link](#))

10 Tips for Protecting Children & Offering Outreach to Victims/Survivors ([link](#))

Prayers of the Faithful ([link](#))

Stations of the Cross in Atonement for Abuse and for the Healing of All ([link](#))

OCYP Norms Required of Dioceses/Eparchies (bulletin insert) ([link](#))

OCYP Norms Required of Dioceses/Eparchies-Spanish (bulletin insert) ([link](#))

Bishop Johnston's Homily from Service of Lament, 2016 ([link](#))