



SERVICE TO REPORT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT INVOLVING U.S. BISHOPS

On May 7, 2019, Pope Francis promulgated an apostolic letter, *Vos estis lux mundi* (“You are the light of the world”) to address the issue of sexual abuse and bishop accountability in the global Catholic Church. *Vos estis* calls upon the metropolitan archbishops to undertake certain responsibilities for receiving and assessing reports involving bishops that pertain to sexual abuse and related misconduct.

In June 2019, the bishops of the United States met in general assembly in Baltimore, where they approved the implementation plan for carrying out the directives of the Holy Father in the United States.

As part of this ongoing commitment to carrying out *Vos estis*, the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR) was established. The service is operated by Convercent, Inc. an independent, third party entity that provides intake services to private institutions for reports of sensitive topics such as sexual harassment through a secure, confidential, and professional platform. Individuals may go to **www.ReportBishopAbuse.org** to make a report online. Reports also are accepted by calling (800) 276-1562. When a report is received, it will be automatically forwarded to the local metropolitan archbishop who will undertake the responsibility of initially assessing the report.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark, New Jersey, is the metropolitan archbishop who presides over this ecclesiastical province, which includes the Archdiocese of Newark and the dioceses of Camden, Metuchen, Paterson, and Trenton.

If a report is received concerning Cardinal Tobin, it will automatically be forwarded to Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan, the Bishop of Camden, who is the senior suffragan bishop of this ecclesiastical province.

The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting service allows individuals to relay to Church authorities any reports of a U.S. Catholic bishop who has:

- forced someone to perform or to submit to sexual acts through violence, threats, or abuse of authority;
- performed sexual acts with a minor or a vulnerable person;
- produced, exhibited, possessed, or distributed child pornography, or recruited or induced a minor or a vulnerable person to participate in pornographic exhibitions;
- or, a diocesan or eparchial bishop, or a cleric overseeing a diocese/eparchy in the absence of a diocesan or eparchial bishop, who has intentionally interfered with a civil or church investigation into allegations of sexual abuse committed by another cleric or religious.

Pope Francis has structured the handling and investigation of the complaints using the metropolitan archbishops. What does this mean?

- The Catholic Church in the U.S. has 32 provinces.
- Each province has one archdiocese plus several dioceses.
- The head of the archdiocese (the archbishop) is also known as the “metropolitan,” and he presides over the province.
- The other dioceses are referred to as “suffragan” dioceses.

The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR) does not replace existing reporting systems for complaints against priests, deacons, religious or laity. CBAR was designed to respond only to complaints against bishops for issues related to sexual misconduct.

The reporting of sexual misconduct by anyone in ministry in the Archdiocese of Newark who is not a bishop, such as priests, deacons, religious brothers and sisters, or lay persons working or volunteering for the Church should continue to be handled in accordance with the **Archdiocese of Newark's Protection of the Faithful** policy (www.rcan.org/offices-and-ministries/child-youth-protection) and with proper civil authorities.

For more information on the reporting service and how it works, please visit:
www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

While the mandate by Pope Francis in *Vos estis* echoes many practices already implemented since 2002 by the Catholic Church in the United States through the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and *Essential Norms*, the norms put into force by Pope Francis apply to bishops in the worldwide Catholic Church, making clear the concern of the Holy Father about sexual abuse in the Church anywhere in the world.

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously all credible complaints of sexual abuse of minors by members of the clergy, religious, lay staff and volunteers of the Archdiocese. Civil authorities are always to be informed. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual abuse of a minor to inform the Archdiocese immediately so that we can take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.

If you suspect a child is in imminent danger from abuse, call 911 immediately.

To report known or suspected child abuse, contact:

- The Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP)
- 24-Hour Child Abuse Hotline: 1-877-652-2873
- Your County Prosecutor:
 - Bergen County (201) 646-2300
 - Essex County (973) 621-4700
 - Hudson County (201) 795-6400
 - Union County (908) 527-4500

New Jersey Clergy Abuse Hotline: (855) 363-6548

Any person who wishes to report an incident of sexual abuse of a minor committed by a member of the clergy, religious, lay staff or volunteer of the Archdiocese of Newark should contact the Archdiocese as follows: Director, Department for the Protection of the Faithful, Archdiocese of Newark, 171 Clifton Avenue, Newark, NJ 07104, **Tel: 973-497-4254**, Fax: 973-497-4001; Coordinator for the Office of Accompaniment, **Tel: 201-407-3256**.

To make a report involving a bishop that pertains to sexual abuse or related misconduct, visit
ReportBishopAbuse.org or call **(800) 276-1562**.