



PROMISE TO PROTECT
PLEDGE TO HEAL

Catholic Diocese of Raleigh

An Update on Child and
Youth Protection Efforts in
the Diocese of Raleigh



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

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CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

MESSAGE FROM
**THE DIOCESE OF
RALEIGH**

Promise to Protect



“ We must show God's love and mercy while continuing to seek forgiveness for the Church's failings and healing for those who were hurt by them. We must also continue to make every possible effort to prevent future transgressions.

~Luis Rafael Zarama, J.C.L., Bishop of Raleigh

In 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), met to discuss child sexual abuse by clergy and to make a renewed commitment to keep children safe. The Bishops developed a set of guidelines called the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (the Charter). Guided by the Charter, the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh Office of Child and Youth Protection was created to enhance the child safety guidelines that had been instituted in our Diocese in 1993.

Parishes safe environment teams complete an annual report detailing efforts to conduct criminal background checks of those who work in leadership with children and youth. Parishes provide training for adults on how to recognize and report child abuse and neglect. Guidelines were created to help children understand that the Church can be a place to find help in a time of crisis and pain.

The Diocese of Raleigh continues to assist those seeking healing from abuse. When the abuse of a child is reported, local authorities (social services and/or law enforcement) are promptly informed. Local safe environment teams educate over 1,700 people per year on how to recognize and report child abuse and neglect. This initiative enhances our ability to respect life in all situations by creating and maintaining safe and healthy environments for all who seek an experience of the Holy presence of God.

REPORTING
ABUSE

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Victims Rights & Assistance

REPORTING ABUSE

Anyone who is a victim of or suspects abuse by Church personnel is strongly encouraged to come forward. After a victim contacts local law enforcement, the incident should also be reported to Director of the Program for the Protection of Children and Young People, Office of Child and Youth Protection at **1-866-535-SAFE (7233)** or by email to **safe@raldioc.org**.

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE 1-866-535-SAFE (7233)

The Diocese of Raleigh is also strongly committed to listening, healing and reconciliation. Those individuals who believe they would benefit from the Assistance Ministry Program are encouraged to call the director at 1-866-535-7233.

RIGHT TO PRIVACY

To respect the privacy of those involved, confidentiality is maintained, to the extent possible, consistent with North Carolina law reporting requirements and the policies and procedures of the diocese, taking into account:

- ♦ the need to advocate for those who are victims.
- ♦ the need to provide appropriate assistive care to victims.
- ♦ the need to be in compliance with criminal and canon law.
- ♦ the need to resolve the allegation in a timely manner.
- ♦ the need to investigate all complaints of child sexual abuse.
- ♦ the right of church personnel to be treated fairly.
- ♦ the need to protect the good name of one falsely accused.



BELIEVE
AFFIRM
ACKNOWLEDGE

WE BELIEVE

THAT BY VIRTUE OF OUR BAPTISM all Catholics share in the mission of the Church.

that all that passes between us, as brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ, is a function of our relationship with God.

that our call to discipleship is an abundant grace and an awesome responsibility that requires constant prayer, so we may be sustained and supported by God's grace.

that those who publicly represent the Church have a special obligation because they have assumed positions of trust.

WE AFFIRM

THAT GOD'S PEOPLE have a right to expect that those in ministry will act with compassion, fidelity and honor.

that the protection and safety of our children and young people is of vital importance and that all who serve in ministry will work to ensure safe havens for children and youth.

that we must always reach out with the compassion of Christ to those who have been the victims of abuse.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE

OUR RESPONSIBILITY to provide programs of healing and reconciliation to all those who have suffered as a result of abuse.

our responsibility to observe the requirements of North Carolina law and the policies of the diocese in the prompt reporting of suspected child abuse.

that all church personnel are entitled to fair treatment under state law and the laws of the Church.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ABUSE IS REPORTED

Promise to Protect

A call is made to 1-866-535-7233 regarding the sexual abuse of a minor by clergy. The number is toll free, but not a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week hotline. One person, the Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection, receives the incoming call, or voicemail message:

LEARN MORE:

Read the policies and procedures for the Protection of Children and Young People at dioceseofraleigh.org/offices/child-and-youth-protection/safe-environment-team-tools

IF MINOR

The director shall call local law enforcement to report allegation of abuse.

The director informs Diocese of Raleigh leaders: bishop, chancellor, vicar general, chief operating officer and the chair of the Review Board.

The accused clergy is suspended from ministry pending results of the preliminary investigation.

The director and a licensed counselor meet face to face with the person making the report to discuss the substance of the allegation.

A letter that details the allegation is sent to law enforcement including contact data for the person reporting the abuse and the accused.

Law enforcement's investigation prevails over the diocese's investigation. The diocese uses an independent professional investigator and partners with law enforcement to gather data.

The counselor works with person who reported the abuse and the family. The parish(es) where the accused clergy have served are informed of the allegation if it is found to have a semblance of truth.

IF ADULT

The director and a licensed counselor meet face to face with the person making the report to discuss the substance of the allegation.

If a person is reporting an allegation of child abuse that occurred when he/she was a minor, the Director shall call local law enforcement pursuant to North Carolina Law.

The director informs Diocese of Raleigh leaders: bishop, chancellor, vicar general, chief operating officer and the chair of the Review Board.

The accused clergy is suspended from ministry pending results of the preliminary investigation.

Law enforcement's investigation prevails over the diocese's investigation. The diocese uses an independent professional investigator and partners with law enforcement to gather data.

The counselor works with person who reported the abuse and the family. The parish(es) where the accused clergy have served are informed of the allegation if it is found to have a semblance of truth.

Law enforcement is called to determine which agency, such as the city police or the department of social service, receives the task to respond to the abuse report.



P R O M I S E T O P R O T E C T

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

Catholic Diocese of Raleigh

Because all human life is a precious gift from God, we must assure that all persons, especially the young and the vulnerable, are to be treated with dignity, respect, and offered an environment which promotes safety.

A safe environment is one that provides for the protection of the physical, emotional, and spiritual health and well-being of each person. A safe environment also reflects the reality that the Church sees itself as a sanctuary, that is, a "sacred space" where one finds protection, security, support, guidance, and the presence of God. Thus, the entire Church community must live in a way that fosters environments that not only are safe, but also are healthy.

The Safe Environment Program of the Diocese of Raleigh, implemented in cooperation with Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina, strives to empower parishes, schools, families, and individuals to create and foster safe and healthy environments for children and youth. We strive to achieve this through recognizing and reporting abuse and educational strategies that promote awareness.



Today, a network of local "safe environment teams" exists across the diocese to help local parishes and ministries remain diligent in our efforts to be a safe and sacred place for children to grow in age, wisdom, and faith. Regular training is provided to staff and volunteers to help them know the proper protocols if they believe abuse or misconduct to have occurred.

ALL CHURCH PERSONNEL

The Laity & Religious

All church personnel, including clergy, lay and religious employees and volunteers, participate in safe environment programs that support ministry with children and youth.

PARENTS

Leaders of the Domestic Church

Parents, as the leaders of the "domestic church," are called to provide the primary safe and formative environment for their children. We will support the vocation of parenthood and the marital bond, so as to improve the nurturing and formation of children, who are a gift from God.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Through High School

Safe environment teams support those who help children and youth navigate their way through the confusing and often harmful aspects of the world by developing the necessary knowledge, integrity and self-mastery they need to live a mature and active faith.

ALL PERSONS

Protect the Future

All persons, who out of generosity and care, seek to better their own local environments for the safety and health of children and youth.

Everything we do as Church must reflect our commitment to respect life in all situations by providing a secure sacred space that safeguards and promotes human dignity, by fostering the development of each individual, and by creating and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all who come to us seeking an experience of the Holy presence of God.

A safe environment team is a required committee of every parish in the Diocese of Raleigh. **If you would like to get involved in this initiative, contact your parish safe environment team.**

SEMINARIAN SCREENING

Office of Vocations

THE PROCESS

As part of the application process, each candidate for formation is responsible for providing complete biographical and medical information to the Diocese of Raleigh which also conducts, via a licensed professional, complete psychological testing for each applicant.

Additionally each seminary used by the diocese conducts a comprehensive criminal background check, including fingerprinting of candidates. Upon successful completion of all application requirements, arrangements are made for the applicant to meet the Seminarian Admissions Board. If it is feasible, the Director of Vocations meets with the parents of the applicant.

Both the Director of Vocations and the Seminarian Admissions Board make final recommendations to the Bishop of Raleigh and/ or his delegate before a final determination is made to accept a candidate for priestly formation. Once enrolled, candidates receive ongoing, individual spiritual direction and formation while at the seminary.

Promise to Protect



Pledge to Heal

DIOCESAN FINANCIALS

Promise to Protect

Each year, as part of an annual financial audit conducted by a third-party, it is confirmed that no funds from the Bishop's Annual Appeal, capital campaigns, or parish savings in the diocesan deposit and loan program are used to pay any child sexual misconduct

Diocesan funds to pay any child sexual misconduct claims, legal fees, or counseling costs are drawn from unrestricted reserves or the diocesan self-insurance fund. These insurance funds are the same that are used to cover these and/or any other liability and casualty claims.

For more information, such as safe environment events, tools, the Assistance Ministry Program, and a list of clergy with actionable allegations of sexual abuse, go to: dioceseofraleigh.org/offices/child-and-youth-protection

P R O M I S E T O P R O T E C T

PLEDGE TO
HEAL

Luis Rafael Zarama, J.C.L., Bishop of Raleigh



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ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES

Anyone who is a victim of or suspects abuse by church personnel is strongly encouraged to come forward and report the abuse to local authorities and to the Diocese of Raleigh.

The report should be made to the Director of the Program for the Protection of Children and Young People, Office of Child and Youth Protection:

1-866-535-SAFE (7233) safe@raldioc.org

For more information, such as safe environment events, tools, the Assistance Ministry Program, and a list of clergy with actionable allegations of sexual abuse, go to:

dioceseofraleigh.org/offices/child-and-youth-protection

For information from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, go to: **www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/resources/index.cfm**



If you have been abused, or know of someone who has been abused, contact local law enforcement authorities and/or call **1-866-535-7233**.



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE *of* RALEIGH

7200 Stonehenge Drive
Raleigh, NC 27613

Office of Child & Youth Protection
1-866-535-SAFE (7233)
safe@raldioc.org

Website
dioceseofraleigh.org/protect