



DIOCESE  
*of*  
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

Primer on 2018 News Accounts of the Abuse of Minors  
October 2018, Version 1  
December 2018, Version 2

\*A primer is a short, informative piece of writing.

\*This primer is a dynamic document. Updates to the document are anticipated as new events and Church responses become known.

**Purpose Statement:**

This primer has been created to provide readers with background and information on the sexual abuse scandal within the Catholic Church. In today's society, there are a number of places one can find news and information. We recognize that some of that information is not always accurate or presented in its entirety. This document aims to identify important news events, provide definitions for key terms used when discussing the scandal, and offer insight and resources for you to use to find additional information.

**News Events, August 2018-Present:**

**USCCB Fall General Assembly, Nov. 12**

At the urging of the Vatican, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops did not vote on two proposals they were to discuss at their fall general assembly meeting in Baltimore on Nov. 12. The proposals were to deal with their response to the clergy sex abuse crisis.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president, informed the bishops as they opened their fall general assembly that the Vatican wanted the bishops to delay any vote until after a February meeting with the pope and presidents of the bishops' conferences around the world that will focus on addressing clergy abuse.

The standards affected are those concerning episcopal conduct and the formation of a special committee for review of complaints against bishops for violations of the standards.

For a bishop's perspective, see the following statement from Archbishop Paul Etienne of the Archdiocese of Anchorage: <https://www.archbishopetienne.com/post-baltimore-where-are-we-and-where-are-we-going>.

**Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report**

On August 14, Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro released a report stating that more than 300 Catholic priests across Pennsylvania sexually abused children over seven decades, protected by a hierarchy of church leaders who covered it up.

The report identified 1,000 children who were victims. The 18-month investigation covered six of the state's dioceses — Allentown, Erie, Greensburg, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Scranton — and follows other state grand jury reports that revealed abuse and cover-ups in two other Pennsylvania dioceses (Philadelphia and Altoona-Johnstown).

**Archbishop McCarrick**

On June 20, 2018, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick was removed from public ministry after a panel substantiated that he had abused an altar boy 47 years ago while he served as a priest in New York. Pope Francis ordered a preliminary



DIOCESE  
of  
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

investigation into this, which was carried out by the Archdiocese of New York. At the conclusion, the ~~relative~~ relevant documentation was forwarded to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

July 28, Cardinal McCarrick submitted his resignation from the College of Cardinals and Pope Francis accepted it. Pope Francis ordered Archbishop McCarrick to a “life of prayer and penance”.

On October 6, Pope Francis decided to combine the results of the initial investigation, of Archbishop McCarrick with a new “thorough study” of all the documentation contained in the Vatican archives in order to “ascertain all the relevant facts” surrounding the ex-cardinal.

The statement went on to say that the Holy See would “make known the conclusions of the matter regarding Archbishop McCarrick” in “due course”.

Currently, the USCCB is conducting an investigation of the 4 dioceses involving former Cardinal McCarrick.

### **Vigano**

August 26, 2018, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, claimed in an 11-page written statement that Pope Francis knew about strict canonical sanctions imposed on McCarrick by Pope Benedict XVI but chose to repeal them. Archbishop Vigano, who served as apostolic nuncio in Washington D.C. from 2011-2016, then calls for Pope Francis’ resignation. In the next two months, Abp Vigano issued two more statements. Fact checking by the Italian media, and a statement by the head of the Congregation for Bishops, Cardinal Ouellet, call Vigano’s assertions into question. Ouellet has access to the archives and says that there is no basis for saying that Pope Francis knew about McCarrick or cancelled McCarrick’s suspension from public life.

### **Pope calls meeting with heads of all bishops’ conferences to address abuse crisis**

At the close of the Sept. 10-12 Council of Cardinals meeting, in which members discussed the recent sexual abuse scandals, the Vatican announced that Pope Francis asked all presidents of bishops’ conferences around the world to travel to Rome for a special meeting to address the crisis.

The gathering will focus on “the protection of minors” and is set to take place Feb. 21-24, 2019, after the pope’s trip to Panama for the global World Youth Day encounter in January.

---

### **How to report abuse in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana:**

Indiana law requires that any individual who has reason to believe that a child is a victim of abuse or neglect must report immediately to:

- The local Child Protection Services agency (Hotline: 800-800-5556); or
- A local law enforcement agency.

Under Indiana law, it is a criminal act not to make such a report. This law applies to *all adults without exception*.

To make a report of an allegation of recent abuse of a minor, or even to report a previously unreported allegation of abuse from years ago, please use these contact numbers:

Office of Communications - 610 Lingle Ave., Lafayette, IN 47901-1740 - P.O. Box 1603, Lafayette, IN 47902-1603  
Office: (765) 742-2050 - Fax: (765) 269-4615 - [www.dol-in.org](http://www.dol-in.org)



DIOCESE  
*of*  
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

- Child Protective Services, 800-800-5556;
- The Office of Victim Assistance Ministry, 765- 464-4988;
- The Conduct in Ministry Officer, 765-463-2242.

Diocesan policies and practices for safe environment can be found online at <https://dol-in.org/safe-environment-1>  
These have been published and enforced since May of 2003.

---

### **Definitions:**

**Minor:** a person under the age of eighteen.

**Minor abuse:** There are different forms of abuse that a child may encounter.

- **Physical:** Each State provides a definition of physical abuse. It is generally defined as "any non-accidental physical injury to a child," and can include:  
Punching, beating, kicking, burning, biting, shaking, throwing, slapping, inappropriate restraint, stabbing, choking, hitting (with a hand, stick, strap, or other object), misuse of medications or other action that results in a physical injury (e.g. bruises, internal, fractures or death).
  - It is critical to note that these actions are considered abusive even if there is no *intent* to hurt a child.
- **Neglect:** While physical abuse tends to happen in specific instances or events, neglect tends to be more on going. Neglect often leaves no visible scars and therefore is more likely than physical abuse to go undetected. Furthermore, children may grow up believing that their circumstances are a normal way of life and therefore do not seek assistance or confide information to anyone.
  - Keep in mind that accepted standards of care and a community's culture may be contributing factors to neglect while indicating a need for information and/or assistance. If a family ignores or fails to use information and resources, and a child's health or safety is at risk, then child welfare intervention may be required.
- **Emotional:** Emotional abuse may include constant criticism, threats, or rejection, as well as withholding love, support, or guidance. This abuse may even include labeling a child with names such as stupid, idiot or dummy. Acts that reject, belittle or ignore children, terrorize them or isolate them from others can also be considered emotionally abusive.
- **Sexual:** Child sexual abuse, also called child molestation, is a form of child abuse in which an adult or older adolescent uses a child for sexual stimulation. Forms of child sexual abuse include engaging in sexual activities with a child, indecent exposure, child grooming, or using a child to produce child pornography.
  - Most children have no physical signs of sexual abuse. A child who indicates any of the following may be a victim of sexual abuse:
    - Difficulty in walking or sitting.
    - Complaints of genital or anal itching, pain, or bleeding.
    - Frequent psychosomatic (imaginary) illnesses.
    - Vomiting without apparent cause.
    - Pregnancy.
    - Sexually transmitted diseases.



DIOCESE  
of  
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

- In-depth sexual play with peers (different from the normal 'playing doctor' form of exploration).
- Fear about sexuality (masculinity or femininity).
- Sexually abused children keep the secret not only because the perpetrator may have threatened them, their families, or their pets, but also because they feel they are to blame for their involvement and fear that no one will believe them if they report the abuse.

Substantiated allegation: “Substantiated” means that a report made pursuant to (the statute) was investigated and that credible evidence of the abuse exists. This is not an indication of a criminal or civil finding of guilt or culpability.

Civil Authorities: refers to the local law enforcement agency, whether it be the city police department, the sheriff's department, the state police post or an area child protection agency. It is distinguished from religious authority.

Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People: (All information on the Charter, including a PDF copy, can be found on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Website- <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/charter.cfm>)

The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* (also known as the Dallas Charter) is a comprehensive set of procedures originally established by the USCCB in June 2002 for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. The *Charter* also includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability, and prevention of future acts of abuse. It was revised in 2005, 2011, and 2018.

The *Charter* directs action in all the following matters:

- Creating a safe environment for children and young people;
- Healing and reconciliation of victims and survivors;
- Making prompt and effective response to allegations;
- Cooperating with civil authorities;
- Disciplining offenders;
- Providing for means of accountability for the future to ensure the problem continues to be effectively dealt with through the [Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection](#) and the [National Review Board](#).

Safe environment training: term used to refer to a wide assortment of practices that contribute to preventing child abuse of any kind.

Diocesan Review Board: A local board that functions as a confidential consultative body to the bishop/eparch. The board is to offer advice to the bishop/eparch in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse of minors and in his determination of a cleric's suitability for ministry. In this diocese, we prefer to enlist non-Catholic as well as Catholic members, both men and women. The makeup of this board over time includes law enforcement officers, social workers, lawyers, and sexual abuse/trauma counselors. Because all of these people are mandated reporters, allegations go to local police or child protective services before being discussed by this board.



DIOCESE  
of  
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

**Resources:**

The John Jay College of Criminal Justice is a senior college of The City University of New York that emphasizes criminal justice, fire science, and other public service related fields. They have been commissioned to do two studies for the National Review Board, one in 2004 and another in 2006. Their data can be found online on the USCCB website:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/reports-and-research.cfm>

- Per the 2004 John Jay report 4% of all active priests committed minor abuse between 1950 and 2002.

Several other research reports and data on this topic can be found online: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/reports-and-research.cfm>

For comparison, there have been a number of studies on the prevalence of minor abuse in public and private schools. You can read about some of these findings on the following websites:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/stevens/ct-life-stevens-friday-cps-sexual-abuse-0601-story.html>

<https://www.nheri.org/child-abuse-of-public-school-private-school-and-homeschool-students-evidence-philosophy-and-reason/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/02/opinion/private-schools-and-sex-abuse-in-new-york.html>

In the United States, there are 193 dioceses and 250 bishops (this includes auxiliary bishops, who serve under a bishop, and retired, Emeritus bishops.) In the state of Indiana, there are 5 dioceses and 8 bishops.

For the most current and up to date news resources, we recommend you check in regularly with the following sites:

- <http://usccb.org/>
- <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>
- <https://dol-in.org/>
- And the Diocesan [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

---

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

1. What is a scandal?

In general, it is an event that causes surprise or disgust. In a moral sense, a scandal is an event that may cause someone to believing that a certain behavior is okay. In this sense, movies about violence or sexual promiscuity may “scandalize” a person.

2. What is the Church’s response to the scandals?

Following the sexual abuse scandal in 2002, The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* (also known as the Dallas Charter) was created and approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in Dallas in 2002 and then approved by the Holy See. It is accompanied by The Essential Norms for procedures to deal with allegations of the abuse of minors by a deacon or a priest. The *Charter* was revised in 2005, 2011, and 2018.



DIOCESE  
of  
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

In addition to the Charter, the Church is and has been doing a great deal for many years to combat child sexual abuse. Pope Francis, the first year following his election to the papacy, created an international commission at the Vatican to study, discuss and address issues related to child sexual abuse. Cardinal Sean O'Malley of the Archdiocese of Boston serves on the Commission.

Also, the USCCB has a standing committee called the Bishops' Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People (CPCYP) and it has been in place since 2002. Our own Bishop Timothy L. Doherty currently chairs this committee through the year 2020.

Each year, every diocese in the U.S. Church issues a comprehensive report to an outside compliance reviewer concerning all alleged cases of child sexual abuse. Currently, StoneBridge Business Partners conducts the compliance reviews. Dioceses must also report all training undergone by clergy and any adult that works with minors in Church ministry. The diocese has implemented a policy requiring periodic background checks for our priests, seminarians, religious and lay employees, and volunteers who have contact with children. Each group also participates in safe environment training every three years.

3. How do we know if the Diocese successfully passes its annual compliance review?

A copy of the letter from the compliance review organization is printed in *The Catholic Moment*.

4. Has the Church apologized for the sexual abuse scandals?

Yes. The Church and its leaders have made public apologies. Pope Francis, and the prior two popes, John Paul II and Benedict XVI, have all made formal, public apologies on multiple occasions and continue to do so. For example, Pope Francis did this when he visited the US in 2015 as part of the synod on families and met with abuse survivors as part of his visit. One of his most recent apologies can be found [here](#). All of the U.S. Bishops have also made formal, public apologies on multiple occasions and continue to do so. Bishop Timothy L. Doherty has issued public apologies in *The Catholic Moment* on multiple occasions. ([Here](#) and [here](#).) The Bishops have also directed the pastors of parishes to do the same.

5. What has the Church done to keep our children safe?

Protocols and training for protecting minors have been in place since 2003 in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. *The Catholic Moment* and the Diocesan website contain information on how to make reports to civil authorities for any suspected abuse. There has been a Diocesan review board in place since 1994 for internal review of cases. Annual, public reports have been made since 2002 as part of the [Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People](#) (defined above).

When a cleric is accused of abuse of a minor it is the Diocese's practice to remove him from active ministry pending the conclusion of an investigation. If there is credible evidence of any such abuse, the cleric is permanently removed from ministry.



DIOCESE  
of  
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

6. Are the sacraments valid when performed by a cleric who is involved in the scandal?

Yes. The Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 1584 states: Since it is ultimately Christ who acts and effects salvation through the ordained minister, the unworthiness of the latter does not prevent Christ from acting. (citation from the Council of Trent DS 1612; DS 1154.)

7. Why should we still trust the teaching authority of the Bishops (or the Pope, the Bishop of Rome) given such scandal?

Because Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, who founded the Catholic Church, promised us that, the gates of hell shall never prevail against His Bride, the Church. Jesus promised to always protect and guide the Church under the power and grace of the Holy Spirit. This includes the leaders, the bishops of the Church, despite their humanity and sinful behavior. This scandal does not negate the promises of Jesus, who knew these things would happen because we are sinful human beings, including our leaders. This is why He sends the Holy Spirit, the 3rd Person of the Most Blessed Trinity, to always help us, guide us and protect us from any error in the teaching of faith and morals. God always keeps His promises and despite the human sinfulness of its leaders, His Truth shall prevail. (See John 16:12-15; Matthew 16:13-19)

8. Should I remain in the Church and in the Catholic faith?

Christ called his followers to unity and He founded only one true Church. The Church is made up of human beings, all of whom are prone to sin, including its clergy and leaders. This does not make committing sin right, nor is sinful behavior justifiable, especially among those who should be role models. However, sin is real, and all of us are sinners in need of the Savior. Abandoning the Church or the faith is never the answer. Remaining steadfast in faith, combatting sin when we encounter it, including our own, fighting for reform and renewal within the Church is what we are called to do in our baptism. We are not the first generation of Catholics nor the last to encounter sin and scandal within the Church. Many of our greatest saints (e.g., St. Francis of Assisi, St. Catherine of Siena) became renowned in the Church for helping her to overcome scandal and bring about substantial reform in the Church. We are called to do the same.

9. What can I do about the scandal?

Remain steadfast in faith, morals, the sacraments, and prayer. You are invited to join the Pope, the Bishops, the clergy, all workers in the Church and many other Catholics in daily prayer for the healing and renewal for abuse victims and ongoing reform in the Church. If you are working with minors or vulnerable adults, make sure that you have completed your criminal background check and have been properly trained.

Always be sure to report cases of abuse that you witness or suspect immediately to the proper civil authorities. Stay well informed, not merely through secular media outlets, but through Church outlets such as the [USCCB website](#), [Diocesan website](#), and the [Catholic Moment](#), which can provide additional, more comprehensive information to help you understand the issues with more depth.





DIOCESE  
of  
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

10. How do I report abuse?

Indiana law requires that any individual who has reason to believe that a child is a victim of abuse or neglect must report immediately to:

- The local Child Protection Services agency (Hotline: 800-800-5556); or
- A local law enforcement agency.

Under Indiana law, it is a criminal act not to make such a report. This law applies to *all adults without exception*.

To make a report of an allegation of recent abuse of a minor, or even to report a previously unreported allegation of abuse from years ago, please use these contact numbers:

- Child Protective Services, 800-800-5556;
- The Office of Victim Assistance Ministry, 765- 464-4988;
- The Conduct in Ministry Officer, 765-463-2242.

Diocesan policies and practices for safe environment work can be found online at <https://dol-in.org/safe-environment-1>

11. Are there Masses or prayer services in the diocese to express reparation and ask for healing? Will parishioners and victims of abuse be welcome?

There are several responses to these questions. First, yes, these will be recurring. Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent will continue to be a day of Prayer and Penance for individuals and for parishes that are willing and able to organize their own events.

Second, it is not necessary for anyone to identify himself or herself as either parishioner or victim when coming to a public parish prayer-event. Where it can be done, it should be done with great care and consent.

Third, it is unfortunate if we think that the Penitential Rite at each Mass is somehow disconnected from, or inadequate for, the ongoing healing of victim/survivors and reparation by the whole Church. It provides a moment for us to call to mind things that added to Jesus's suffering on the Cross.