



## National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People

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### **Recommendations from the National Review Board Addressing the Current Crisis specific to Restoring the Trust of the Faithful (November 13, 2018)**

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We, the National Review Board, echoing concerns of the lay faithful, request the bishops take immediate action and present some recommendations for your consideration.

- **Include bishops in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.**
- **Implement the plan by Cardinal DiNardo regarding the creation of standards of conduct for bishops, third-party reporting system, investigation into the McCarrick situation, and the establishment of a lay commission.**

#### Transparency and Accountability

- Contract for an independent review of all archives, clergy files and seminary files, going back to 1950 if possible. Make these results public, including publishing the list of names of all clergy offenders.
- Make an honest assessment of past failures and accept consequences. Bishops who have been complicit through neglect or allowed abuse to continue should resign and step down from public ministry.
- Create national norms for screening seminarians.

#### Charter and the Audit

- Implement a completely independent audit process developed by the audit vendor.
- Conduct parish audits, either internal or external, to assess compliance to the Charter and diocesan policies.
- Review the recommended changes to the Charter the NRB suggested prior to the most current revision.
- Revise the Statement of Episcopal Commitment to enhance the commitment of the bishops to the Charter.

#### Communication

- Hold bishop led listening sessions around the diocese and respond to the questions of the faithful.
- Encourage all Action Items that pertain to child protection in any way, be reviewed by the CPCYP and the NRB for feedback.
- Hire an outside communications firm to assist in the creation of media plans, to educate the public, especially Catholics, and to address the positive and negative legacy of the Church's response to the crisis of sexual abuse by clergy.

#### Review Boards

- Report all allegations of child sexual abuse to the appropriate authorities in accordance with state law and refer them to your review board.
- Utilize your review board to address allegations of clerical sexual misconduct or harassment toward all adults.

#### Data Review and Gathering

- Develop a national database for all clergy who have been removed because of the sexual abuse of minors.
- Create a national database for seminarians who were dismissed from a seminary because of sexual misconduct or abuse.

#### Reconciliation and Prevention

- Assess and implement the principles of high reliability organizations (HROs) to develop the diocesan culture into a culture of safety, or a culture of protection and healing.
- Encourage all dioceses to have ongoing support for survivors.
- Implement standardized safety plans for all clergy who are confined to prayer and penance.
- Utilize evidence based safe environment training programs.