**Module J – “Promise to Protect – Pledge to Heal”**

**Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People**

**Essential Norms**

**Statement of Episcopal Commitment**

**Outline, Goals and Comments, Discussion Questions, References, and Sources**

**Outline**

1. Preamble (J-4 to J-10)
2. To Promote Healing and Reconciliation with Victims/Survivors of Sexual Abuse of Minors (J-11 to J-15)
3. To Guarantee an Effective Response to Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors (J-16 to J-20)
4. To Ensure the Accountability of Our Procedures (J-21 to J-24)
5. To Protect the Faithful in the Future (J-25 to J-30)
6. Conclusion (J-31 to J-32)
7. Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons (J-33 to J-40)
8. A Statement of Episcopal Commitment (J-41)

**Goals and Comments**

The goal of Module J is to provide an overview of the document of the U.S. Bishops on child protection entitled, “Promise to Protect – Pledge to Heal: Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, Essential Norms and Statement of Episcopal Commitment.” The outline of the document is noted above and the slides pertinent to each section are identified below.

**Titles of Slides and References**

J-1: Module J

J-2: Title Slide

J-3: Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

J-4: **A. Preamble**, 1

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 3

J-5: Preamble: Apologies Offered, 2

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 3-4

J-6: Preamble: Actions to be Taken, 3

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 4-5; see also pp. 5-6 for sources of guidance in the

task of fulfilling the responsibility to confront the crisis.

We, who have been given the responsibility of shepherding God’s people, will, with his help and in full collaboration with all the faithful, continue to work to restore the bonds of trust that unite us. Words alone cannot accomplish this goal. It will begin with the actions we take in our General Assembly and at home in our dioceses and eparchies.

We feel a particular responsibility for “the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Cor 5:18) which God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, has given us. The love of Christ impels us to ask forgiveness for our own faults but also to appeal to all—to those who have been victimized, to those who have offended, and to all who have felt the wound of this scandal—to be reconciled to God and one another.

Perhaps in a way never before experienced, we have felt the power of sin touch our entire Church family in this country; but as St. Paul boldly says, God made Christ “to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor 5:21).

We know that after such profound hurt, healing and reconciliation are beyond human capacity alone. It is God’s grace and mercy that will lead us forward, trusting Christ’s promise: “for God all things are possible” (Mt 19:26).

J-7: Preamble: Steps Taken, 4

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, pp. 6-7

J-8: Preamble: Steps Taken, 5

J-9: Preamble: Steps Taken, 6

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 7

J-10: Preamble: Ongoing Efforts, 7

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 8

J-11: **B. To Promote Healing and Reconciliation with Victims/Survivors of Sexual Abuse**

**of Minors**, 1

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 9

J-12: To Promote Healing and Reconciliation, 2

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 9

J-13: To Promote Healing and Reconciliation, 3

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 9-10

J-14: To Promote Healing and Reconciliation, 4

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 10

J-15: To Promote Healing and Reconciliation, 5

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 10

J-16: **C. To Guarantee an Effective Response to Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors**, 1

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 11

J-17: To Guarantee an Effective Response, 2

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, pp. 11-12

J-18: To Guarantee an Effective Response, 3

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 12

J-19: To Guarantee an Effective Response, 4

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 12

J-20: To Guarantee an Effective Response, 5

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 12

J-21: **D. To Ensure the Accountability of Our Procedures**, 1

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 13

J-22: To Ensure Accountability of Procedures, 2

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, pp. 13-14

J-23: To Ensure Accountability of Procedures, 3

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, pp. 14-15

J-24: To Ensure Accountability of Procedures, 4

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 15

J-25: **E. To Protect the Faithful in the Future**, 1

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 16

J-26: To Protect the Faithful in the Future, 2

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 16

J-27: To Protect the Faithful in the Future, 3

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 17

J-28: To Protect the Faithful in the Future, 4

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 17

J-29: To Protect the Faithful in the Future, 5

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 17

J-30: To Protect the Faithful in the Future, 6

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, pp. 17-18

With renewed urgency, we will promote programs of human formation for chastity and celibacy for both seminarians and priests based upon the criteria found in *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, the *Program of Priestly Formation*, and the *Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests*. We will continue to assist priests, deacons, and seminarians in living out their vocation in faithful and integral ways.

J-31: **F. Conclusion**, 1

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 19

J-32: Conclusion, 2

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, pp. 19-20

J-33: **Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual**

Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 21

J-34: Essential Norms

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, pp. 23-24

J-35: Essential Norms, 2

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, p. 25

J-36: Essential Norms, 3

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, pp. 25-26

J-37: Essential Norms, 4

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, pp. 26-27

J-38: Essential Norms, 5

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, pp. 27-28

J-39: Essential Norms, 6

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, pp. 28-29

J-40: Essential Norms, 7

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, pp. 29-30

J-41: **A Statement of Episcopal Commitment**

Notes: *Charter for the Protection*, pp. 34-35

**Sources**

This module and others prepared for use in seminaries and schools of theology are based primarily on the two reports presented to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops by the John Jay College Research Team, The City University of New York: *The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States*, 1950-2010, March, 2011 and *The Nature and Scope of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests and Deacons in the United States, 1950-2002*, February 2004.

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