



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO Office of Communications

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To: All Parish and School Staff
From: Bryan J. Visitacion, Director of Media and Communications
Date: March 16, 2020
Subject: Launch of Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR)

Dear Fathers, Deacons, Principals, and Staff:

Last May, Pope Francis issued a “motu proprio” entitled [Vos estis lux mundi](#) (You are the Light of the World), which established new procedures for reporting abuse worldwide. Today, as part of the implementation of this letter, the USCCB launched a third-party reporting system for sexual abuse or the mishandling of such cases by bishops. The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR) is now available at [ReportBishopAbuse.org](#) and reports may also be filed at 800-276-1562.

The CBAR service is operated by an independent, third-party entity that provides intake services through a secure, confidential, and professional platform. Once a report is received, it is forwarded to the “Metropolitan” archbishop and a designated lay person in each region, who is responsible for reviewing the report. The Metropolitan is part of a process involving the Vatican to investigate the alleged abuse or misconduct and determine what actions to take in response to it. For the Diocese of Sacramento, the “Metropolitan” is Archbishop Salvatore Joseph Cordileone of the San Francisco Archdiocese.

The third-party system allows individuals to report a U.S. Catholic bishop who has committed an act of sexual abuse himself or who has interfered with a civil or church investigation into allegations of sexual abuse by another cleric. This system is *in addition to* the existing protective measures and reporting systems for complaints against priests or other diocesan employees. It is designed to respond only to complaints against bishops for issues related to sexual misconduct.

Attached, please find a flyer to share with your communities. A social media graphic is now shared to the Diocese of Sacramento’s [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). Below is a bulletin announcement:

ReportBishopAbuse.org or file a report at (800) 276-1562

The *Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR)* has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse or the mishandling of such cases by bishops, and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. Where a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. *Otherwise, reports are treated confidentially.* Individuals may go to [ReportBishopAbuse.org](#) in order to make a report or call (800) 276-1562. To report sexual abuse or misconduct by a priest or anyone in diocesan ministry who is not a bishop, call (866) 777-9133 or visit [www.scd.org/safe-environment](#)

Sincerely,

Bryan J. Visitacion
Director of Media and Communications
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If you have any other kind of complaint about a bishop—such as parish assignments, church closings, or other issues—please address those directly to the Diocese of Sacramento’s Office of the Bishop instead.

Sexual abuse by a priest, deacon, staff member or volunteer of the Church should be reported to the Diocese of Sacramento’s Victim Assistance Coordinator at (866) 777-9133 or www.scd.org/safe-environment

If you are the victim of sexual abuse (or any other crime), please contact local law enforcement. We encourage you to come forward and speak out.
