



## GENERAL RESOURCES:

<https://preventionusccb.org/>

The United States Conference of Bishops (USCCB) has launched a new website highlighting the importance of prevention, protection and accountability in response to the ongoing effort to eradicate clergy sexual abuse. This new site serves as a resource detailing the steps the American bishops are taking to confront this crisis. It includes informative videos, statistics, FAQs and resources for victims and others.

<https://www.pbc2019.org/home>

In connection with the abuse summit in Rome in February 2019, the Vatican launched a new website with information on responsibility, accountability and transparency regarding abuse of minors on a global scale.

## SESSION RESOURCES

### Session 1: Facing the Truth

*We acknowledge the sexual abuse by clergy, the enduring harm to victims, the coverup by church authorities, and our feelings about these events.*

- Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/charter.cfm>

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

- Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/faqs.cfm>  
The USCCB provides answers to frequently asked questions for parents, clergy, and victims of sexual abuse regarding Church teachings and current USCCB documents, policies and procedures.
- The Sexual Abuse Crisis: video by Holy Cross Family Theater  
[https://blog.familyrosary.org/catholic-central-episodes/sexabusecrisis?\\_hstc=21498980.53c2bfb55adac25c6eea51e195ef1c1a.1515078347721.1540265648112.1540860190572.11&\\_hssc=21498980.1.1540860190572&\\_hsfp=2047661649](https://blog.familyrosary.org/catholic-central-episodes/sexabusecrisis?_hstc=21498980.53c2bfb55adac25c6eea51e195ef1c1a.1515078347721.1540265648112.1540860190572.11&_hssc=21498980.1.1540860190572&_hsfp=2047661649)  
In this “Catholic Central” video, hosts Kaiser Johnson and Libby Slater share their perspective on the sexual-abuse crisis focusing on how we as Catholics can face the abuse scandal, better love and serve victims, prevent future acts of abuse, and move toward healing, reconciliation, and reformation.
- Church sex abuse crisis: What you need to know:  
<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2018/09/06/church-sex-abuse-crisis-what-you-need-know>  
*America: The Jesuit Review* magazine, has provided comprehensive reporting, analysis, and reflections on the clerical sexual abuse crisis and has made links to their continuing coverage available to the public.
- National Sexual Assault Telephone Hotline: <https://www.rainn.org/>  
Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) is the nation’s largest anti-sexual violence organization. RAINN created and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline in partnership with more than 1,000 local sexual assault providers, and carries out programs to prevent sexual violence, help survivors, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.
- **Update: U.S. bishops take action to respond to church abuse crisis**  
<https://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2019/response-to-church-abuse-crisis-looms-large-at-bishops-spring-meeting.cfm>  
This article provides an overview of the June of 2019 meeting of US Bishops to plan ways to implement the Papal Document “Vos Estis Lux Mundi” (“You are the Light of the World”) and it summarizes the resolutions calling for additional safeguards against abuse and more accountability of all church leaders.
- **Vos Estis Lux Mundi – Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis**  
[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu\\_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190507\\_vos-estis-lux-mundi.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190507_vos-estis-lux-mundi.html)  
Pope Francis issued this letter on May 7, 2019 dealing with the role of the hierarchy of the Church in dealing with abuse and protecting minors and venerable persons.

- Top Ten Myths about Clergy Abuse in the Catholic Church:  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/do-the-right-thing/201908/top-10-myths-about-clergy-abuse-in-the-catholic-church>

In order to clearly see and deal with this crisis, we must know the facts, what is it, and what it isn't. This article gives professional insight about abuse and abusers in all walks of life, not just in the Church, and gives some perspective on the scope of this tragedy in our world today.

### **Session 2: Healing Our Wounds**

Acts of sexual abuse and the coverups have deeply wounded the whole people of God. Healing is an ongoing process that takes place over time and in several stages. The treatment is truth, compassion, transparency, and prayer. Each of us must play a part in the process of healing and transformation of the Church.

- Listen to the Heart of our People: Sr Teresa Maya addressing the Bishops at their retreat day during their Fall Assembly 2018  
<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/blog/gsr-today/trends/listen-heart-our-people-sr-teresa-maya-tells-us-bishops-55617>

Sr. Teresa Maya, past president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, spoke at the Bishops' general assembly out of her "deep love of our church" and her love for "those who have been hurt by our church, who clamor for a listening heart and our courage to own the truth."

- Statement from the National Review Board Calls for Lay Leadership Amid Sexual Abuse Crisis:  
<http://www.usccb.org/news/2018/18-144.cfm>

In August of 2018, the National Review Board (NRB), which collaborates with the USCCB in preventing the sexual abuse of minors by persons in the service of the Church, stated "holding bishops accountable will require an independent review into the actions of the bishop when an allegation comes to light. The only way to ensure the independence of such a review is to entrust this to the laity..."

- Five ways to safeguard children everywhere:  
<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2018/09/20/five-ways-safeguard-children-everywhere>

Msgr. Stephen J. Rosetti, a licensed psychologist and consultant to the Holy See's Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, shares five recommendations toward making the protection of children our most important priority.

- Hell, Hope and Healing:  
<https://www.ncronline.org/healing>

The National Catholic Reporter (NCR) published this four-part series on the effects of child abuse and the myriad paths to recovery in 2016 written by Mary Gail Frawley-O'Dea, who is also the author of *Perversion of Power: Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church* and a psychologist who has been working with sexual abuse survivors for 30 years.

### Session 3: Rebuilding OUR Church

We identify and explore the complex factors that have caused the sexual-abuse and coverups. We claim our role in rebuilding the church.

- John Jay Report: The Nature and Scope of Sexual Abuse of Minors:  
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/upload/The-Nature-and-Scope-of-Sexual-Abuse-of-Minors-by-Catholic-Priests-and-Deacons-in-the-United-States-1950-2002.pdf>  
In 2002, the National Review Board (NRB) engaged John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York to conduct research, summarize the collected data and issue a summary report to the USCCB of its findings. The report covers the period from 1950 to 2002.
- Virtus: <https://www.virtusonline.org>  
VIRTUS is the brand name that identifies best practices programs designed to help prevent wrongdoing and promote "rightdoing" within religious organizations. Protecting God's Children® for Adults is training conducted by VIRTUS® certified facilitators on the prevention of child sexual abuse. The training makes participants aware of the signs of child sexual abuse, the methods and means by which offenders commit abuse, and five easy steps one can use to prevent child sexual abuse.
- Five misconceptions about child sexual abuse and the Catholic Church:  
<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2002/04/22/five-misconceptions-about-child-sexual-abuse-and-catholic-church>  
The Rev. Stephen J. Rossetti, president of St. Luke Institute in Silver Spring, Md., is a psychologist and a consultant to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' ad hoc committee on child sexual abuse. In this article, he discusses five major oversimplifications and distortions regarding child sexual abuse that have been publicly raised.
- The Siena Option: What one saint did in the face of a troubled Church:  
<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/the-siena-option-what-one-saint-did-in-the-face-of-a-troubled-church-64108?utm>  
The state of the world—and the Church—today is in some ways no less troubled than the 14th century world in which St. Catherine of Siena lived. While the current abuse

crisis and related scandals have left many lay Catholics wondering how to respond, some Catholics have suggested looking to the saints - like Catherine of Siena - for guidance. The author, Mary Rezac, is a staff writer for Catholic News Agency/EWTN News.

- Sexual abuse and the culture of clericalism: <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2018/08/23/sexual-abuse-and-culture-clericalism>  
Jason Blakely, an assistant professor of political science at Pepperdine University and writer on politics, philosophy, and human behavior, explores how clericalism, enabled by both the clergy and laity, contributed to the crisis and what must be done to generate a new culture and a new church.
- Restoring Trust: [https://leadershiproundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/CrisisResourcesWebpage\\_RestoringTrustActionSummary\\_October2018.pdf](https://leadershiproundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/CrisisResourcesWebpage_RestoringTrustActionSummary_October2018.pdf)  
These ten recommendations from the 2008 Leadership Roundtable working paper, "The Work of Hope: Renewing and Strengthening Trust in the Catholic Church in the United States," provide practical suggestions we can all implement as we work together to heal our church.

#### **Session 4: Why Do I Remain Catholic?**

We listen to people explain why they remain in the Church, and we share our own faith stories. By the end of the session participants will be able to articulate why they remain Catholic.

- What can I say to my kids when they ask why we keep faith in this church?: <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2018/08/15/what-can-i-say-my-kids-when-they-ask-why-we-keep-faith-church>  
Kerry Weber, an executive editor for *America Magazine*, shares on her belief that although the Church as institution is not why we are here, that we are responsible for holding it accountable and working to make it more truly reflect the kingdom of God. This article is shared as a pdf with permission of the publisher.
- The Darkness of Scandal and the Light of Christ: <https://lifeteen.com/blog/darkness-scandal-light-christ/>  
Life Teen blogger Leah Murphy shares how we can "lean into Jesus' light" in the midst of the darkness of the sexual-abuse scandal. Life Teen is a youth ministry organization that leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.
- Former altar boy sexually abused by priest tells why he's raising his kids in the Catholic Church: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/ct-life-catholic-church-sex-abuse-parenting-1025-story.html>

Michael Hoffman explains why he remained in and chose to raise his family in the Church, and how he became involved in working with others who had been abused.

- Why Stay Catholic?: <https://www.nationalreview.com/2018/08/catholic-church-abuse-scandal-faithful-must-help-heal-wounds/>  
A theologian who was sexually abused as a child recounts how she came into the Church during a period of scandal.
- Why I have Hope for Young Priests: <https://www.osvnews.com/2019/08/29/why-i-have-hope-for-young-priests/> This short article, written by an older priest, talks about the differences between the vetting and counseling of young men wishing to enter the priesthood in the years between his own formation and today.

### **Session 5: We Believe**

We refocus on our connection to Christ, whom we meet in the sacraments and the Scriptures in the community of the faithful. We explore ways of articulating to others why we stay.

- Why do we stay in the church?:  
<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2018/09/05/why-do-we-stay-church>  
Rev. Matt Malone, S.J. share his personal reasons for remaining Catholic and a priest. Fr. Malone is the President and Editor in Chief of America Media.
- Coping With The Clergy Sex Abuse Crisis:  
<http://www.catholicdigest.com/faith/spirituality/coping-with-the-clergy-sex-abuse-crisis/>  
Dr. Gregory Popcak, director of the Pastoral Solutions Institute, offers practical suggestions for Catholics to process their feelings about the sexual-abuse crisis and remain strong in their faith.

### **Session 6: We Are the Church**

The Church is the people of God, called, and sent to be wounded healers. We explore the call to become missionary disciples in a wounded Church.

- Eight Lessons to Help Us Move Forward:  
<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2018/09/25/eight-lessons-help-us-move-forward-sex-abuse-crisis>  
John Carr shares from his more than 50 years of service to the Church eight lessons he believes can help the Church move forward. John Carr is the director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University and the Washington correspondent for *America Magazine*.

- **The Four Waves of the U.S. Catholic Abuse Crisis:**  
<http://churchlife.nd.edu/2018/12/17/the-four-waves-of-the-u-s-catholic-abuse-crisis/?fbclid=IwAR0mL36ZYQK4tg3iwp1-BalpdI-3cRW5RbGOMTwMfSa86A-WzHdQBzIAKro>  
This article provides an overview of the Church's current moment; a brief review of how we got here; and a description of what might lie ahead as we think about how to move forward. Author Kim Daniels is the Associate Director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University and a member of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication.
- **To Reach Young People, We must be Honest about Our Broken Church**  
<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2019/09/12/reach-young-people-we-must-be-honest-about-our-broken-church>  
Mary Ann Spanjers, O.S.F., is a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity and has ministered with youth. She speaks of how the crisis is affecting our young people and outlines ways to help them find their way through this as they become adult members of the Church.

