

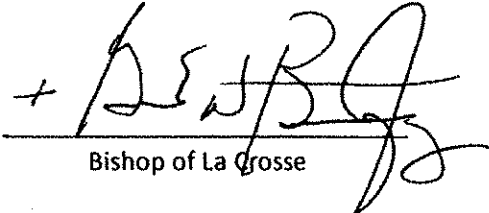
DECREE
PROMULGATING THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES
OF THE DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE
REGARDING THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS BY CLERGY

In the Diocese of La Crosse protecting our youth and vulnerable and creating a safe environment for all is a priority. This is a painful issue; victims of abuse endure a lifetime of pain and we as a Diocese pledge to be leaders in prevention and detection. I commit to doing all in my ability to ensure that a culture of vigilance permeates all ministries and programs offered by the Diocese particularly those that serve our young and vulnerable members.

The Diocese of La Crosse has established policies and procedures contained herein for the safeguarding of all those committed to our care. This document, among others, serves as a path, addressing in a compassionate and timely way the evil of sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable individuals. We must continue to build upon the solid foundation which we have built in protecting the youth and vulnerable of our diocese. This is a work of which we can never rest in our attentiveness, nor let down our efforts at sober vigilance. Continuing our work of education for all, holding to the effective policies that have been implemented, is an ongoing task and commitment. The revisions of the Green Book include the addition of an investigator who will report directly to the Chair of the Review Board. This strengthens the independence of the Review Board, giving it the authority to approve replacements to its membership. It outlines the process of the publication of names and publishes the bylaws of the Review Board. It also includes appropriate references to Pope Francis' Motu Proprio "Vos Estis Lux Mundi." My hope is that this will lead to an even greater compassionate and timely response to any and all accusations of sexual abuse of children or vulnerable adults. I hereby promulgate the Policies, Procedures, and Bylaws: Diocese of La Crosse Complaint Process Regarding Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Clergy.

May God bestow healing upon all those wounded by the pain and fear inflicted upon them and may they be sheltered safely in His love.

Given at La Crosse on the 18th day of August in the year of the Lord 2024.


Bishop of La Crosse


Chancellor

