



ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
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OFFICE OF
THE ARCHBISHOP

As a Catholic Bishop who has experienced firsthand the unfolding of the sexual abuse crisis in the Church since 2002, recent revelations of abuse in Pennsylvania and regarding former Cardinal McCarrick are a cause of renewed outrage, feelings of betrayal, and hurt for me personally. The same is true for our priests and religious, and above all for our Catholic people, many of whom are shaken in their faith or who even question their continued practice of the faith in light of the sins and crimes of certain priests and bishops.

The clergy who betrayed the trust placed in them and who grievously sinned against their high calling have failed our people by teaching and preaching moral precepts while failing to live by them. And with regard to the accountability of bishops, I fully support the preliminary four-point plan adopted by the Administrative Committee of the United States Bishops' Conference as announced on September 19 (<http://www.usccb.org/news/2018/18-152.cfm>).

To those who have been victims of child sexual abuse by clergy, and to the parents, siblings, and friends of those who were abused – I ask, the Church asks – for forgiveness. Healing and reconciliation continue to be an essential but not easy goal, given the terrible effects that these sins and crimes can cause in the lives of victims, to whom the Church owes the deepest expression of sorrow and apology.

In light of all that has been written and continues to be written about clergy sexual abuse over the years, people in the Archdiocese of Hartford justifiably want to know what is the current situation in the Archdiocese of Hartford, and what has been done by the Archdiocese of Hartford to protect children over the past couple of decades or so. I appreciate this opportunity to respond to those questions.

Let me begin by addressing our current situation and stating some very important facts. Over the past two decades, two Archdiocesan priests have been credibly accused of sexually abusing a minor during that entire period, and both of those priests were criminally charged and prosecuted for their crimes. Although even two are two too many, it is extremely important to know that clergy sexual abuse of minors has not been occurring widely in the Archdiocese of Hartford for at least the past 20 years.

Second, there are no Archdiocese of Hartford priests currently in ministry in the Archdiocese of Hartford who have had credible allegations of child sexual abuse asserted against them. That is the result of the zero-tolerance policy that has been in effect since 2002. Such priests have been removed from ministry and not returned to service in the Church.

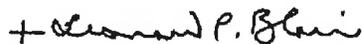
Let me now address what the Archdiocese of Hartford has been doing since 2002 to protect children (and more recently, vulnerable adults) from sexual abuse. Since 2002, when the bishops of the United States adopted the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the subsequent Church reforms have resulted in an array of best practices and even groundbreaking policies and procedures to keep children safe. In addition to adopting and enforcing the zero-tolerance policy, the Archdiocese of Hartford also implemented the following programs and procedures:

- It has reported all claims of sexual abuse by personnel of the Archdiocese of Hartford to the State's Department of Children and Families without regard to how long ago the alleged abuse occurred and without regard to the credibility of the claims.
- It updated its written policy regarding sexual abuse matters to clarify the need to report claims and the steps to be taken in handling such claims.
- It established a Review Board comprised principally of lay people from different professions to serve as a confidential consultative resource to review abuse claims and provide advice to me on how to respond to them.
- It established a Safe Environment Program that provides ongoing education and training both to adults and children in how to recognize all aspects of sexual abuse and exploitation and how to respond appropriately if and when it is encountered. As examples, since 2003, the Archdiocese of Hartford has trained 52,725 adults, and during the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, over 34,000 children participated in an age appropriate program.
- It established a requirement of criminal background checks on all of its personnel who have contact with children (and later, vulnerable adults) in their ministries.
- It established a Victim Assistance Coordinator whose function is to reach out to victims and offer assistance of various types, psychological counseling, spiritual counseling, etc.
- It established a program where every victim is offered the opportunity to meet and speak with me or my designee to discuss their sexual abuse experience and related spiritual issues.
- It voluntarily undergoes annual audits by an outside, independent agency whose function is to determine whether all requirements of the Charter are being complied with. The Archdiocese of Hartford has been found to be in compliance with the Charter each year.

The protection of children and vulnerable adults and keeping them safe is our highest priority. I hope that this information provides reassurance that the Archdiocese of Hartford has taken and will continue to take these matters very seriously.

I will continue to pray twice daily, and offer Mass regularly, for all victims of child sexual abuse by clergy, and their families, especially those in our Archdiocese. May God have mercy on us all.

Sincerely,



Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford

www.archdioceseofhartford.org



Sacred Heart Parish is part of the national C3 project which is focused on helping people of all ages discover and live God's callings in their lives. Calling is a central to our lives as Christians. It encompasses:

- Who we are called to be: we are created by God, baptized in Christ, and sent forth to serve by the power of the Holy Spirit;
- How we are called to live: our commitments of lifestyle and relationships, including marriage, parenting, or the single life;
- What we are called to do: the work, service and activities that fill our daily lives, including paid or professional work, volunteering, homemaking, raising children or caregiving.

We are inviting you to take this personal reflection on faith and calling in your life so that our church can better support you in living God's calling and continually growing as a Christian.

Thanks so much for participating in this activity. Your contribution will be very helpful!

* 1. Your gender

- Male Female

* 2. Your age.

- 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 70-79 80 and over

* 3. Your ethnicity.

- African American Arab/Middle Eastern White/Caucasian
 African National/African-Caribbean Asian/Pacific Islander Multiracial
 American Indian/Alaska Native Latino/Hispanic
 Other Ethnicity (please specify)

* 4. Your involvement in Sunday worship.

- I don't attend I attend several times a year I attend once a month I attend 3 or times a month

* 5. Your involvement in church life (events, programs, activities).

- I participate in 1-3 church events or programs each year.
- I participate in 4-6 church events or programs each year.
- I participate in 6-11 church events or programs each year.
- I participate in 12 or more church events or programs each year.
- I don't participate in church events or programs.

* 6. Please reflect on your faith life using the following statements.

	<u>Not</u> true for me	Mostly not true for me	Somewhat true for me	True for me	Very true for me
I am growing in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My faith shapes how I think and act every day.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have a real sense that God is guiding me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am aware of God present and active in my own life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I devote time to reading and studying the Bible.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I pray to God and take quiet time to reflect and listen to God.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am growing in my understanding of the Christian faith—beliefs, traditions, and practices.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I exercise moral responsibility by applying Christian ethics, virtues, and values to making moral decisions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I live a life of service by caring for others and reaching out those in need.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am involved in ways to promote social justice and address injustice in the world.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I share the Good News of Jesus through my words and actions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 7. Please reflect on your experience of God's calling in your life using the following statements.

	<u>Not</u> true for me	Mostly not true for me	Somewhat true for me	True for me	Very true for me
I have a calling from God that gives my life meaning and purpose.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have a calling from God that I live out in marriage, parenting, or single life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am trying to figure out what my calling in life is at this stage of my life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My calling is how I live my Christian faith in the world today.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have experienced different callings from God throughout my life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have experienced a calling from God in difficult times during my life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have experienced a calling from God through my relationships with people.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have experienced a calling from God in creation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have experienced a calling from God through my gifts, talents, and interests.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am living my calling from God in my career or at work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I yearn for a sense of calling in my career or work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am trying to develop a career that will give my life meaning.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am trying to find a career that makes the world a better place.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 8. Please reflect on how Sacred Heart Parish supports God's calling in people's lives.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree or Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Sacred Heart Parish helps people discover their God-given callings at each stage of life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sacred Heart Parish equips people to live their callings in all areas of life: at home, at work, in the community and world.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sacred Heart Parish provides opportunities for me to talk with others about living my calling at work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sacred Heart Parish provides support (programs, mentoring, small groups) to help me live out my calling in everyday life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sacred Heart Parish celebrates people's callings.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Are there other ways that Sacred Heart Parish could assist people in discovering and living their calling in life?