



## Resource sheet regarding sexual abuse in the Catholic Church

Dear ARCCC members,

One of the greatest challenges in our Church today are the cases of sexual abuse by Priests that continue to surfacing in different parts of the world, in particular the findings from the Pennsylvania grand jury report

In response this unfortunate situation, Catholic Organizations, Church Leaders and Dioceses across Canada have issued statements and developed various resources that can help us understand the Church's position on this matter. These resources are also a great source in the crafting of key messages around the issue and to help us maintain a consistent and unified language as Catholics and in our Communications efforts, in particular when dealing with the media.

Here are only a few of the resources released. We hope that you will find them helpful in your ministry.

- On August 20, 2018, Pope Francis issued a letter to the People of God in response to the reports and allegations of sexual abuse by Priests. [Click here](#) for full text.
- On October 4, 2018, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) released a document entitled: ***Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse: A Call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation, and Transformation***. This document focuses on minors and vulnerable adults, whom Canada's Bishops wish to protect from sexual violence and abuse. [Click here](#) to see the public release and the document.
- The Archdiocese of Edmonton was awarded the honour [Praesidium Accreditation](#)® in March, 2017. This honour publicly demonstrates that The Archdiocese of Edmonton has

worked to achieve the highest standards in abuse prevention. In conjunction with the Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories, they released a letter, [Abuse in the Church – A Pastoral Respond](#) and posted a [video of the CCCB President](#), Most Rev. Lionel Gendron, P.S.S., introducing the document *Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse*.

- The Diocese of Hamilton issued a [statement from Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI](#), reassuring the faithful of the Diocese that anyone who has been a victim of sexual abuse by a Priest or any Pastoral Minister in the Diocese, will be treated with the utmost dignity and compassion. The diocesan [Protocol for Cases of Alleged Sexual Misconduct](#) can be found on their [website](#).
  
- The Diocese of London released a letter from Bishop Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B., promulgating the third edition of the *Safe Environment Policy* for the Diocese of London. For Bishop Fabbro's letter and the updated policy, [please click here](#).
  
- The Archdiocese of Toronto [issued a public statement](#) from Cardinal Thomas Collins in response to the situation. They also sent a letter to Parishes with various resources to assist in educating parishioners regarding these stories. [Visit the Archdiocese of Toronto](#) for more details.
  
- The Archdiocese of Vancouver developed an *Abuse Crisis Resource page for Catechists, Youth and Young Adult Leaders*, featuring talks from Fr. Mike Schimtz and Fr. Robert Barron. A statement from Archbishop Miller and procedures for reporting serious misconduct in the Archdiocese of Vancouver are also included. Please [click here](#) to see the full resource.
  
- Father Thomas Rosica, founder and Executive Director of [Salt and Light Media Foundation](#) has kindly offered ARCCC members the opportunity to reach out to him if you may wish to have some input on the situation and any advice on how to answer media questions.