

# BUILDING ON OUR COMMITMENT TO ACCOUNTABILITY

“Be diligent in these matters, be absorbed in them, so that your progress may be evident to everyone.”  
(1 Tim 4:15)



- Zero Tolerance
- Victim Outreach
- Required Reporting to Public Authorities
- Lay Review Boards
- Victim Assistance Coordinators
- Safe Environment Training
- Background Checks
- No Confidentiality Agreements Unless Requested by Survivor
- Ongoing Formation for Clergy

- Reporting Systems
- Timely Investigations
- Survivor Support
- Whistleblower Protection
- Conflict of Interest Ban
- Lay Involvement
- Compliance with Civil Law
- Grounded in the Law and Life of the Local Church

- Outlines Use of Lay Experts to Investigate and Publicize Allegations
- National 3rd Party Reporting
- Strengthens Conflict of Interest Ban
- Pastoral Care for Those Harmed
- Affirms Duties of Metropolitan



- Guidance on Bishops Who Were Removed or Who Resigned for Reasons Related to Sexual Abuse or Abuse of Power
- Guidance on Participation of Such Bishops Removed or Resigned in USCCB Meetings

- Bishops Included in Codes of Conduct that Must Include Prohibitions Against Sexual Misconduct and Harassment
- Bishops Renew Pledge to Be Subject to the Charter
- Commitment to Ongoing Formation for Bishops
- Commitment to Include Expertise of Lay Professionals

- Affirms the Rights of Victims
- Underscores Ways to Report Clerical Sexual Abuse
- Reinforces Bishops' Obligations to Preserve Evidence
- Emphasizes Cooperation with Civil Authorities
- Clarifies Obligations of Silence
- Ensures Consistency in the Investigation of Allegations
- Describes the Church's Penal Process

