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MEMORANDUM

TO: All the Faithful in the Diocese of Monterey

FROM: +Most Reverend Gerald E. Wilkerson
Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Monterey

DATE: August 31, 2018

Recently I wrote the following note to the priests of the Diocese: “The news of the sins and crimes outlined in the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report are horrendous and despicable. Abusing children is unconscionable and the whole Church is sickened and repulsed and rightly so. There can be no excuse for this kind of sinful behavior, whether with children or adults. Our priesthood is diminished and often even our own parishioners look at us as somehow responsible and some even have lost trust in us. This is a sad chapter in our history and should remind us of how damaging these sins can be.”

We also learned over the weekend that some in authority may not have responded properly to reports of such abuse, which is also most disturbing and has further eroded trust among the faithful. Our Church is going through a period of intense purification. At this time of darkness, I wish to affirm the Diocese of Monterey’s commitment to protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults and following the *Charter* and our policies and procedures. I also invite our entire Diocese to pray for resurrection and new life.

It is important to note that in 2002, the United States Bishops approved the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which requires each diocese in the United States to establish policies and procedures to prevent child abuse and to restore the trust of our parents and the entire faithful in the Church’s commitment to prevent abuse when children are under our care. The *Charter* requires that each diocese have a safe environment policy, background check all priests, deacons and lay people who work with children, train our priests, deacons, employees and volunteers who work with children in our policies and turn over all suspected cases of child abuse to law enforcement. The Bishops of the United States have embraced zero tolerance for the sexual abuse of children.

Since 2003, the Diocese of Monterey has, embraced the *Charter* and have the following policies and procedures in place to protect children and young people from abuse:

- Since 2003, we have completed criminal background checks on 26,000 people. This number includes every priest, deacon, and all employees and volunteers who work with children;

- We have a Code of Pastoral Conduct (available on our website) in place that outlines the expectations when working with children and we have trained everyone who works with children in this Code of Conduct;
- We turn over all cases of suspected child abuse to law enforcement and have provided extensive training on mandatory reporting of child abuse to our employees;
- We have a Pastoral Outreach Coordinator to respond to victims of clergy sexual misconduct. Her toll-free number is 800-321-5220; and,
- The Diocese has an Independent Review Board to advise the Bishop on child abuse whether it involves priests, deacons or lay people.

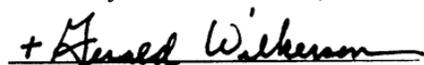
Every year, we must prove that the Diocese of Monterey is in compliance with the *Charter*. I am pleased to report, that we have passed every audit. We have worked diligently to restore trust in our people and our processes and hearing about what occurred in Pennsylvania and that some in authority failed to respond properly to allegations of sexual misconduct is disheartening. Even so, I will be asking each of our pastors and administrators to meet with his Parish Safe Environment Coordinator to review our safe environment policies and procedures and to re-affirm his commitment to them.

I encourage all of you to report any suspected incidents of child abuse to law enforcement. If you are concerned about something that is occurring in one of our parishes, schools or departments, please report it. You can report to law enforcement or to the Moderator of the Curia (pprivello@dioceseofmonterey.org), the Chancellor (hpatino@dioceseofmonterey.org), to your pastor, principal or department chair or you can use ethicspoint.com to report either via a web-based program or via phone (888-238-1063). If you see something, say something.

In my letter, I asked our priests to support all victims with care and compassion and to pray for all offenders. I would ask the faithful of our Diocese for your prayers as well -- for our Diocese and for our Church -- as we seek forgiveness and healing. The United States Bishops are working on plans to hold Bishops accountable and to strengthen their oversight and responsibility to protect the vulnerable.

Dear Friends, could we now all come together, bishops, priests and people, and pray and work to find ways to reform and renew our Church? Let us return to our spiritual roots, prayer, penance, the sacraments, the saints, allowing the Holy Spirit to remake and renew us as the Body of Christ, so real, so alive, so transparent that all will know in us the person of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely in Christ's love,



+Most Reverend Gerald E. Wilkerson
Apostolic Administrator of Monterey