



ARCHDIOCESE OF AGAÑA

CHANCERY OFFICE

196 Cuesta San Ramon Ste. B • Hagåtña, Guam 96910-4334 • Tel: (671) 472-6116, (671) 562-0000 • Fax: (671) 477-3519

01 April 2019

Protocol No. 2019-058

Dear Friends in Christ,

In February 2017, I adopted the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (June 2011) and the Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons (May 2006), making these important policy statements and legal requirements applicable to the Archdiocese of Agaña. In October 2017, I promulgated three distinct documents, specific to our archdiocese, in order to implement the above charter.

Now, over one year after its full implementation I am grateful to all of you who have worked through the processes of ensuring that our parishes, schools and organizations are in compliance with the aforementioned policies. Your questions, concerns and practical experience in implementing these norms have naturally brought about the need to revisit the policies and make the necessary amendments to ensure their clarity. I am therefore grateful for the diligent work of the Safe Environment Office and the Independent Review Board in reviewing the October 2017 policies, making the necessary revisions and so I present to you the following policies effective 01 April 2019:

- Archdiocese of Agaña Policy on the Protection of Children and Young People from Sexual Abuse;
- Safe Environment Program; and
- Policy for the Independent Review Board

These documents will help to continue the change of culture in our archdiocese. We must now exercise the will, the effort, and the expense to implement completely the provisions set forth. Safe Environments for our children must become a reality in our midst.

May God and Our Lady, Santa Marian Kamalen continue to be with you and bless you and your families.

Most Rev. Michael J. Byrnes, S.T.D.
Coadjutor Archbishop of Agaña