



**Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Office of Communications/
Social Media**

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STATEMENT

On the State of New Mexico Office of the Attorney General's Investigation

September 5, 2018

ALBUQUERQUE – Wednesday, September 5, 2018—IMMEDIATE RELEASE--On September 4, 2018, the Archdiocese of Santa Fe received notice from the State of New Mexico Office of the Attorney General “Re: The Office of the Attorney General’s investigation of sexual abuse by priest(s), clergy member(s), or other church official(s) and individuals alleged to have aided, abetted or conspired to conceal sexual abuse”.

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe intends to fully cooperate with legitimate authorities. We look forward to working with the Office of the Attorney General.

Please know the Archdiocese of Santa Fe continues to be committed to transparency. We have published a list which contains the names of priests, deacons, religious, and seminarians credibly accused of sexual abuse of children in the archdiocese, along with the respective name of the (arch)diocese or religious order and the parish, school and ministry assignments. The list is updated as needed and may be located on the archdiocesan website www.archdiosf.org/victims-assistance.

We are assiduous in promoting a safe environment throughout the archdiocese which has been steadily enforced according to our zero-tolerance policy, adopted in 1993 which is compliant with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. Since 1993, as soon as a report of sexual abuse of a child is made, the accused is removed from ministry, the civil authorities and the Independent Review Board are notified.

Since 1993, the Archdiocese of Santa Fe has undertaken significant reforms to assure that clergy abuse of children does not recur in our archdiocese. For example:

- Since 1993, priests with credible allegations have been removed from ministry and their priestly faculties have been restricted.
- The archdiocese has instituted background checks on all priests, deacons, religious, employees, volunteers, and seminarians. All seminary candidates are further required to undergo psychological screening and evaluation.
- On an annual basis, the archdiocese conducts age-appropriate sexual abuse prevention programs in every grade level in the Catholic Schools as well as in all religious education classes in every parish.
- All priests, deacons, religious, employees, and volunteers must also attend a sexual abuse detection and prevention program at least once every five years.

We encourage anyone who has been the victim of childhood sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe to immediately call the police and/or the New Mexico Youth & Families Department (CYFD) as well as Ms. Annette Klimka, ASF Victim Assistance and Safe Environment Coordinator at [505.831.8144](tel:505.831.8144) | aklimka@archdiosf.org.

It is our determination to make the Catholic Church a place where children can come to the Lord without fear and complete safety. We pray without ceasing for healing of the victims and families.--
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