Where sin increases, grace abounds.

By: Bishop Steven Biegler

In this issue of the Wyoming Catholic Register, we are making public a list of all Catholic clergy with substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable persons for whom we have files and who were in active ministry from 1950 to the present in the Diocese of Cheyenne. Our clergy are expected to be shepherds who guard and protect the flock, especially the least among us. They are called to imitate the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep. Therefore, sexual abuse by clergy is an appalling sin and a reprehensible crime. It contradicts everything we stand for. Each name on this list represents a betrayal of trust, a violation of the innocent and a human tragedy.

Recently, I met with a victim of clerical sexual abuse who is making progress on a journey of healing. He told me, “there will always be bad guys,” but what is important is “that institutions can be trusted to do the right thing” – that is, the Church and law enforcement – so that those who have been harmed can find hope in honest institutions and the credibility of good leaders. My sense was that he was wounded not only by the sexual abuse, but even more so by how he was treated by institutions that failed to respond to his case with fairness and justice. As a consequence, he felt shunned, isolated, and without recourse.

On behalf of the church,
The purpose of a public listing
Several dioceses and religious orders have published lists of clergy with substantiated allegations of sexual abuse. Nevertheless, some question the purpose for doing this. While this is not a practice of other public institutions like schools and other faith communities, there are good reasons for doing it. Here is my rationale. First, the Catholic Church made a commitment to transparency in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which stated: “Dioceses are to be open and transparent in communicating with the public about sexual abuse of minors by clergy” (cf. Article 7).

In the past, this information was kept confidential, and as a result, other children were harmed. Transparency helps prevent future abuse because it makes it almost impossible for those of us in church leadership to backtrack on our promise of zero tolerance. It is, we hope, a means of restoring trust with the laity. Credibility depends upon open and honest communication.

In addition, there have been times when church leaders did not believe victims of sexual abuse even when their allegations were true. Sometimes their allegations were not investigated. Other times substantiating evidence was ignored. I pray that publication of this list today is a clear signal that things have changed. Because the Church has been more transparent in recent years, victims have felt that their voices are being heard, and it encourages others who have been abused to come forward. Transparency creates an atmosphere in which victims can breathe a sigh of relief and know that they can speak about this horrible experience.

What should I do if a minor or vulnerable person is being abused or if I have been abused by a representative of the Diocese?

If you know of a minor or vulnerable person in imminent danger, immediately call 911. If you have observed suspicious behavior and fear that someone might be being abused or neglected by a representative of the Diocese, report to local Department of Family Services or law enforcement agencies. Additionally, make a report to the Diocese itself.

If you or someone you know has been the victim of abuse by a member of the clergy, or an employee or volunteer of a parish in the past, and would like to report or discuss this please contact

Victim Assistance Coordinator,
Mary Adams
307-220-0485 or adamsmaryj@outlook.com
Patti Loeher
Chancellor
307-638-1530 (toll free 866-790-0014) or ploehrer@dioceseofcheyenne.org

The Diocese encourages your report, no matter when the abuse occurred.
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What information are you releasing? Whose names are on the list?

The list contains names of clergy members against whom a substantiated allegation of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable person has been received and investigated by the Diocese of Cheyenne. The Diocese is aware of one bishop and ten priests with substantiated allegations. In all cases but one, they were clergy of this Diocese. The one exception is a member of a religious order who committed sexual abuse while serving in the Diocese of Cheyenne.

A “minor” is a young person under the age of 18. “Vulnerable person” means “any person in a state of infirmity, physical or mental deficiency, or deprivation of personal liberty which, in fact, even occasionally, limits their ability to understand or to want or otherwise resist the offence.” (Vos Estis Lux Mundi, Pope Francis, May 9, 2019)

2. How did you define “child sexual abuse”?

All sexual touching between an adult and a minor or vulnerable person is sexual abuse. But sexual abuse does not have to involve penetration, force, pain or even touching. If an adult engages in any sexual behavior with a minor or vulnerable person in order to meet the adult’s interest or sexual desires even if it does not involve touching, it is sexual abuse. This includes the manufacture, distribution and viewing of child pornography.

For purpose of diocesan policies, the term “sexual abuse” is not necessarily limited to the definitions of sexual abuse under civil or criminal law.

3. What do you mean by a substantiated allegation?

A substantiated allegation is one which has been determined to have reasonable probability or even certainty based on a convincing level of proof. For a broader description of the term “substantiated allegation,” please see the article by Bishop Steven in this issue of the Wyoming Catholic Register.

4. Does inclusion on the list imply a criminal offense?

Clergy listed with a substantiated allegation does not necessarily mean they were found guilty of a crime or are liable for civil or criminal claims. Often the determination of a substantiated

See FAQ, 4
acknowledge that they have employees and volunteers?

5. What happens to an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable person by a member of the clergy once it is received?

The Diocese of Cheyenne promptly refers all reports of sexual abuse to civil authorities and child protection agencies as required by applicable state laws and the Diocesan Safe Environment Policy. The Diocese cooperates fully with law enforcement in the process of an investigation. The bishop and other appropriate diocesan officials will also be notified. Any reasonable allegation of sexual abuse will result in the alleged perpetrator’s temporary removal from ministry until an investigation is concluded.

The Diocese may engage the services of an independent investigator, who will take into account the rights of all parties. The Diocesan Review Board examines and evaluates all findings of an investigation and advises the Bishop in his determination of the suitability for ministry of priests and deacons accused of sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable persons.

6. Are any of the men on this list still in active ministry?

The Diocese of Cheyenne has had a Zero-tolerance Policy. No cleric, indeed, no employee or volunteer with a substantiated allegation of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable person serves in public ministry in any way in the Diocese of Cheyenne.

7. What is the Diocese doing to prevent sexual abuse within the church? What education is provided to clergy, new employees and volunteers?


In addition, the Diocese continues to create and maintain a comprehensive safe environment program that includes all children and youth and adults: clergy, employees and those volunteers working with minors or vulnerable persons in our parishes and schools.

For Children and Youth: All students in grades K-12 in Catholic schools and religious education programs are required to receive safe environment education. This is not sex education. Students are taught about personal safety, awareness and boundaries.

For Adults: The following requirements must be met prior to employment or volunteer service for those who interact with minors or vulnerable persons:
- Safe environment education
- State and national background checks, repeated at least every five years

8. What steps has the Diocese taken to ensure that those who apply for seminary are suitable for ministry?

The application process for independent firm that conducts an annual safe environment audit to ensure compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The Diocese has been found in full compliance with the Charter yearly.

As a consequence, there have been no substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of minors against a priest serving in the Diocese of Cheyenne to have occurred after 2003.

9. How does the Diocese ensure that priests or deacons from other dioceses or religious communities, ministering here either short or long-term, are not a threat?

Prior to being allowed to minister in the Diocese, every cleric from outside of the Diocese must provide a letter from his bishop or religious superior stating that he is a cleric in good standing and suitable for ministry. He must have completed safe environment training under the provisions of the Charter for the Protection for Children and Young People. Bishops and/or religious superiors must attest that there is nothing in his background that would render him unsuitable for ministering; especially with children and young persons.

10. If a cleric who has a substantiated allegation performed a sacrament for me (Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, etc.), is that sacrament considered valid? In other words, did it “count”?

Even if a bishop, priest or deacon has been removed because of any substantiated allegation (under restrictions or dismissal from the clerical state), sacraments that he administered are valid. A sacrament is a personal, saving action of Jesus Christ. However worthy or unworthy that ordained person may be, the sacrament is valid as long as the cleric was validly ordained.
Clergy with Substantiated Allegations

CHLEBORAD, GERALD
AFFILIATION: Diocese of Cheyenne
BIRTH: 1934
ORDINATION: 1960
STATUS: Suspended, Faculties Removed, Retired
REPORTING VICTIMS: 3 adolescent males
ASSIGNMENTS:
• St. Joseph, Cheyenne
• Holy Name, Sheridan
• St. Mary’s, Cheyenne
• St. Matthew, Gillette
• St. Joseph, Lovell
• St. John the Baptist, Buffalo
• St. Patrick, Kemmerer
• St. Margaret, Riverton
• St. Cyril & Methodius, Rock Springs
• Our Lady of the Mountains, Jackson
• St. Ann, Saratoga

MURRAY, JOHN
AFFILIATION: Diocese of Cheyenne
DOB: 1933
YEAR OF ORDINATION: 1960
STATUS: Retired; prohibited from active ministry
REPORTING VICTIMS: 2 adolescent females
EST. TIME OF ABUSE: 1976-77
ASSIGNMENTS:
• St. Mary’s, Cheyenne
• St. Anthony, Casper
• St. Cyril & Methodius, Rock Springs
• Our Lady of Fatima, Casper
• St. Joseph, Cheyenne
• Our Lady of Peace, Pinedale
• St. Anthony, Guernsey
• St. Edmund, Ranchester
• Holy Name, Sheridan
• Holy Rosary, Lander
• St. Patrick, Wheatland
• Our Lady of Sorrows, Rock Springs
• St. Ann, Saratoga
• St. James, Douglas
• St. Patrick, Kemmerer

COLIBRARO, PHILIP
AFFILIATION: Diocese of Cheyenne
BIRTH: 1930
YEAR OF ORDINATION: 1957
STATUS: Deceased
REPORTING VICTIM: 1 adolescent male
EST. TIME OF ABUSE: 1965
ASSIGNMENTS:
• Holy Name, Sheridan
• Our Lady of Sorrows, Rock Springs
• St. Patrick, Kemmerer
• St. Paul, Pine Bluffs
• St. Cyril & Methodius, Rock Springs
• St. Mary Magdalen, Evanston
• St. Paul, Pine Bluffs
• St. James, Douglas
• Our Lady of Fatima, Casper

HART, JOSEPH
AFFILIATION: Diocese of Cheyenne
BIRTH: 1931
ORDINATION: 1956
STATUS: Retired; Pope Francis imposed restrictions and authorized a penal process
REPORTING VICTIMS: 3 adolescent males
EST. TIME OF ABUSE: 1977-80
ASSIGNMENTS:
• Priest in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph
• Auxiliary Bishop of Diocese of Cheyenne
• Ordinary Bishop of Diocese of Cheyenne

PERONE (C.S.P.), ROCCO
AFFILIATION: Paulist Fathers
BIRTH: 1920
ORDINATION: 1949
STATUS: Deceased
REPORTING VICTIM: 1 adolescent male
EST. TIME OF ABUSE: 1957
ASSIGNMENTS:
• St. Anthony, Casper

POWER, JAMES
AFFILIATION: Diocese of Cheyenne
BIRTH: 1915
ORDINATION: 1939
STATUS: Deceased
REPORTING VICTIMS: 5 adolescent males
EST. TIME OF ABUSE: 1958-72
ASSIGNMENTS:
• St. Thomas, Monarch
• St. Matthew, Gillette
• St. John the Baptist, Buffalo
• St. Patrick, Casper
• St. Rose, Torrington

JABLONOWSKI, ANTHONY
Diocese of Cheyenne (1980 - 2000)
• St. Anthony, Guernsey
• Our Lady of Lourdes, Glendo
• St. Leo, Lusk
• Holy Rosary, Lander
• Diocese of Steubenville (2000 - 2006)
BIRTH: 1937
ORDINATION: 1970
STATUS: Dismissed from clerical state and released from prison
REPORTING VICTIMS: 4 adolescent males
EST. TIME OF ABUSE: 1983-88

PRADO, CLETUS
AFFILIATION: Diocese of Cheyenne
BIRTH: 1928
ORDINATION: 1958
STATUS: Faculties Removed; Denied; Deceased
REPORTING VICTIMS: 2 adolescent males
EST. TIME OF ABUSE: 1958-63, 1977-78
ASSIGNMENTS:
• St. Joseph, Rawlins
• Our Lady of Sorrows, Rock Springs
• St. Margaret, Riverton
• St. Barbara, Powell
• St. Paul, Sundance
• St. Anthony, Upton
• Corpus Christi, Newcastle
• Holy Rosary, Lander
• St. John the Baptist, Buffalo
• St. Patrick, Wheatland
• St. Mary Magdalen, Evanston

TELLEZ, GEORGE
AFFILIATION: Diocese of Cheyenne
BIRTH: 1935
ORDINATION: 1961
STATUS: Resigned from ministry to marry; Laicized; Married
REPORTING VICTIMS: 3 adolescent females
EST. TIME OF ABUSE: 1966-1971
ASSIGNMENTS:
• St. Joseph, Rawlins
• Our Lady of Fatima, Casper
• Corpus Christi, Newcastle
• St. Laurence O’Toole, Laramie
• St. Edmund, Ranchester

Abused in the Diocese of Duluth
GORMLY, CHARLES
AFFILIATION: Diocese of Cheyenne
BIRTH: 1910
ORDINATION: 1936
STATUS: Deceased
REPORTING VICTIMS: 1 preadolescent and 4 adolescent females
EST. TIME OF ABUSE: 1960-61
ASSIGNMENTS:
• Our Lady of Sorrows, Rock Springs
• St. Paul, Pine Bluffs
• Holy Rosary, Lander
• St. Laurence O’Toole, Laramie

Abuse of a vulnerable adult
STOLCIS, RONALD
AFFILIATION: Diocese of Cheyenne
BIRTH: 1942
ORDINATION: 1968
STATUS: Retired; Restricted from public ministry
REPORTING VICTIM: 1 male
EST. TIME OF ABUSE: 1995-1997
ASSIGNMENTS:
• St. Barbara, Powell
• St. Anthony, Casper
• St. Margaret, Riverton
• Sacred Heart, Greybull
• St. Mary Magdalen, Worland
• Holy Name, Sheridan

This information is also available on the Diocese of Cheyenne website at www.dioceoseofcheyenne.org
Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has issued the following statement regarding the release of Pope Francis’s Motu Proprio on May 9. The Motu Proprio, *Vos estis lux mundi* (“You are the light of the world”), is a worldwide order to the Church from the Pope, in response to the evil of sexual abuse. The new law comes three months after a meeting in Rome that brought together all episcopal conference presidents from across the globe to discuss the Church sex abuse crisis.

**Cardinal DiNardo’s partial statement follows:**

“Today, Pope Francis ordered a worldwide response to the evil of sexual abuse. It calls for the establishment of easily accessible reporting systems, clear standards for the pastoral support of victims and their families, timeliness and thoroughness of investigations, whistleblower protection for those making allegations, and active involvement of the laity. It also leaves latitude for national bishops’ conferences, such as the USCCB, to specify still more to account for their local circumstances. We receive the Motu Proprio *Vos estis lux mundi* (‘You are the light of the world’) as a blessing that will empower the Church everywhere to bring predators to justice, no matter what rank they hold in the Church. It also permits the Church the time and opportunity to bring spiritual healing.

The Holy Father said a ‘continuous and profound conversion of hearts is needed, attested by concrete and effective actions that involve everyone in the Church.’ Pope Francis was clear that this responsibility ‘falls, above all, on the successors of the Apostles.’ As part of this responsibility, bishops also will be held accountable under the authority of this Motu Proprio, which covers sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable persons, sexual acts compelled through the abuse of authority, and any coverup of such crimes.

I am grateful for the opportunity to build upon the excellent foundation of the USCCB’s Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons, and the Statement of Episcopal Commitment, all of which date back to 2002. The existing framework in the United States including victim outreach, zero tolerance, reporting allegations to civil authorities, and lay expertise on review boards, among other measures - positions us readily to bring the Holy Father’s instructions to action. By embracing the painful experience of survivors and working on these new protections, let us pray we continue to grow into a stronger Church.”

Please find the respective translations of the *motu proprio* here:

**English:** http://bit.ly/motoproprio

**Spanish:** http://bit.ly/motoproprioSpanish

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**Q&A Regarding Motu Proprio *Vos estis lux mundi***

**What does the new Motu Proprio do?**

The new Motu Proprio *Vos estis lux mundi* is a significant move forward for the universal Church, one that echoes many of the practices established in the Essential Norms and the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People that have been in force in the United States since 2002. For example, it affirms the existing:

- commitment to provide for the spiritual and emotional well-being of victims/ survivors and their families;
- duty to comply with all applicable civil laws with respect to the reporting of allegations of sexual abuse of minors to civil authorities;
- right of any person to report such crimes;
- guarantee of a prompt and objective investigation;
- assurance of lay involvement.

The Motu Proprio also continues to focus on victims by significantly building upon existing local practices, for example by expanding:

- the scope of cases to include: the sexual abuse of a new classification of “vulnerable persons,”
- the use of violence or other abuse of power to perform or submit to sexual acts,
- any cover up of such conduct by others;
- those who are to be reported for such cases, namely, cardinals, bishops, other clerics, religious superiors, and other members of institutes of consecrated life or societies of apostolic life;
- reporting obligations to include mandatory, internal reporting;
- against retaliation or discrimination by mandating “whistle-blower” protections.

**When do these norms take effect?**

- They will take effect on June 1, 2019;
- They will be reviewed by the Holy See after three years and adjusted as needed;
- every diocese and eparchy (either individually or collectively) is to have a publicly accessible means for people to report cases covered under the Motu Proprio by June 1, 2020. In the United States, while this has already been accomplished for cases involving the sexual abuse of minors by priests and deacons, reporting mechanisms will have to be modified to serve the broader categories of the Motu Proprio.

**What about cases of sexual misconduct that do not fall under this Motu Proprio?**

These are generally already covered by existing diocesan or eparchial codes of conduct. With the help of lay and legal experts, bishops are working on ways to ensure that coverage and enhance awareness and reporting mechanisms for such cases.

**How are transparency and confidentiality promoted in this new Motu Proprio?**

- The Motu Proprio increases transparency by establishing clear procedures that must be followed, reaffirming the obligation to report to civil authorities, providing for lay involvement in internal investigations, protecting from possible conflicts of interest, and ensuring that those who report complaints to the Church are also free to report the same information to others and are protected from retaliation. At the same time, because the Motu Proprio involves the investigation of a complaint, it carefully balances the rights of those involved. Confidentiality is needed for the effectiveness of the investigation. It protects victims and witnesses, as well as the presumption of innocence and the seal of the confessional.

**Does this new Motu Proprio interfere or hinder civil law, such as mandatory reporting requirements and civil investigations?**

- In no way. The Motu Proprio establishes the canonical (Church law) procedures that are to be followed. Included in these procedures, however, is the obligation to comply with all applicable civil laws.

See Moto Proprio Q&A, 7
**Motu Proprio Q&A from June 6**

**Zero tolerance is not mentioned. Is that no longer the policy of the Catholic Church?**

- In the United States, zero tolerance has been the policy since 2002, which comes from the Charter and the Essential Norms. The Motu Proprio does not undo this policy. Other episcopal conferences around the world have or will be developing policies appropriate to their legal and cultural situations. The good news here is that what was first thought of as an “American problem” or a “Western problem” is now on everyone’s radar.

- Recent investigations of misconduct by a bishop, such as in West Virginia, have successfully followed this practice.

**What does this mean for the proposals the U.S. bishops considered last November?**

- The work of our committees that has already taken place will be examined and adapted to work within the framework of the new Motu Proprio and will be the basis for deliberation over its implementation at the USCCB Plenary Assembly in June.

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NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Cooperating with God’s design for married love.

Please follow the Diocese of Cheyenne Facebook or Instagram accounts and watch for information and events happening that week.

Please join the diocesan NFP team to spread the word about God’s design for married love and the gift of life as well as the methods of NFP! If you would like to learn NFP or become an instructor in the Diocese of Cheyenne, please contact Maria Ward at 307-638-1530 or mward@dioceseofcheyenne.