



Roman Catholic Diocese of Lubbock

Most Rev. Robert
Coerver
Bishop of Lubbock

Bishop Robert Coerver: all people have a right to expect behavior of all who serve in the Church to be respectful, free of harm or harassment.

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The safety of members of the Catholic Church on the South Plains is the top priority for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lubbock and for me, the Bishop of Lubbock.

Pat Behnke
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This is a dark time for the Church in the United States and around the world. As your Bishop, I assure Catholics of the Diocese of Lubbock of my support during this time which could be filled with discouragement and doubt—and I beg for your support and prayer as well.

We pray for victims of abuse of any kind, and we pray especially for those families whose trust in the Church has been broken.

As a Church we must maintain zero tolerance for sexual abuse by any representative of the Catholic Church, which includes its bishops.

We must continue to work together to protect all those entrusted to the care of the Church. The Holy Father continues efforts to strengthen the accountability of bishops. I stand among those calling for greater accountability of bishops, including myself.

Our clergy (bishops, priests, and deacons), seminarians, men and women in Consecrated Life, lay staff, and volunteers are trained to recognize and to report any disclosure or suspicion of physical abuse, sexual abuse, sexual assault, or neglect to the appropriate authorities.

It is the policy of the Diocese of Lubbock to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to law enforcement.

We are likewise committed to the norms of Code of Canon Law and upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being.

Once local law enforcement, or the child abuse/vulnerable adult hotline has been called, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to Victim Assistance Coordinator Oscar Reyes at (806) 543-9178 or to diocesan officials.

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We have a moral responsibility to protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults from physical abuse, sexual abuse, sexual assault, or neglect—and all people have a right to expect behavior of all who serve in the Church to be respectful, free of harm or harassment.

Much work remains to be done, so countless prayers for good discernment are necessary.

We must work to nurture an environment of trust which is necessary for those who have experienced abuse to be aided when reporting abuse committed by any representative of the Catholic Church.

We must support those who come forward. We need to listen, ensure assistance and reassure them of protection.

We must allow the appropriate authorities, civil and ecclesiastical, to investigate all allegations and determine future appropriate action. When the appropriate action is determined, the Church must follow through with that action.

As we do so, we must proceed in a spirit of justice and reparation, while also maintaining principles of mercy and compassion.

Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to renew the Church. Please pray for the Church around the world and for all Catholics to discern and work to heal these wounds to the Body of Christ.