

## PRAYER FOR HEALING

Praise to you, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, source of all consolation and hope. By your Son's dying and rising He remains our light in every darkness, our strength in every weakness. Be the refuge and guardian of all who suffer from abuse and violence. Comfort them and send healing for their wounds of body, soul and spirit. Rescue them from bitterness and shame and refresh them with your love. Heal the brokenness in all victims of abuse and revive the spirits of all who lament this sin. Help us to follow Jesus in drawing good from evil, life from death. Make us one with you in your love for justice as we deepen our respect for the dignity of every human life.

Giver of peace, make us one in celebrating your praise, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## ADDITIONAL VICTIMS ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

- ◆ Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org))
- ◆ Office of Child and Youth Protection ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org))
- ◆ Diocesan Safe Environment Regulations ([www.richmonddioocese.org](http://www.richmonddioocese.org))
- ◆ Abuse of Minors: The Church's Response ([http://www.vatican.va/resources/index\\_en.htm](http://www.vatican.va/resources/index_en.htm))
- ◆ VIRTUS Online ([www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org))

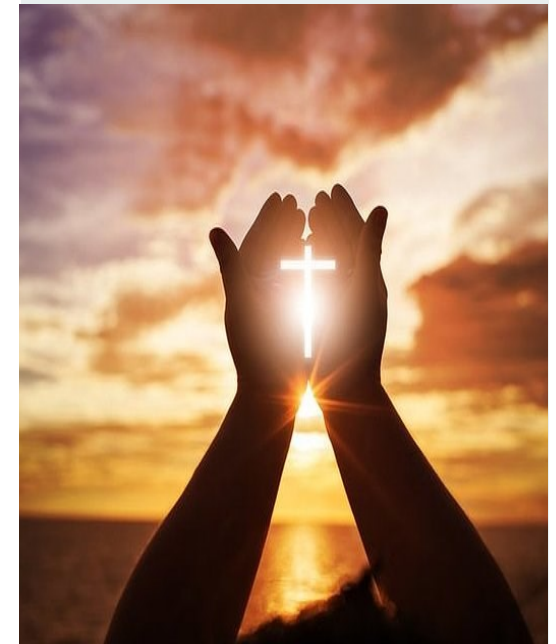
### Report abuse to:

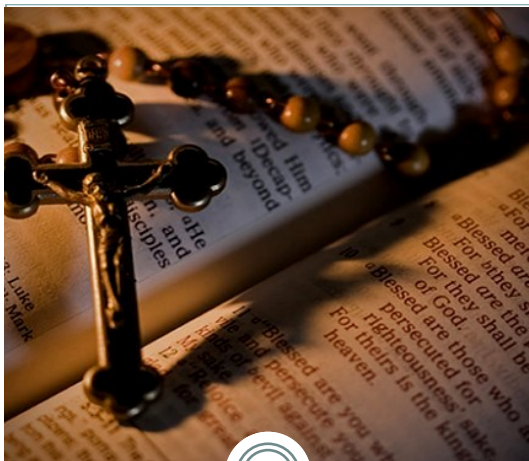
The Diocese of Richmond encourages individuals who have been sexually abused by a priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese to report abuse directly to law enforcement, including Child Protective Services (CPS) at 1-800-552-7096. In addition, we place no deadlines or time limits on those who contact the diocese to report the sexual abuse of minors by priests, deacons, and or other personnel. Individuals are also encouraged to contact the confidential Victim Assistance Reporting 24 Hour Number 1-877-887-9603 or by email at [vac@richmonddioocese.org](mailto:vac@richmonddioocese.org).

Catholic Diocese of Richmond  
7800 Carousel Drive  
Richmond  
VA 23291-4201

# Hope and Healing

Diocese of Richmond  
Program for Sexual Abuse  
Victim Survivors





## Making a Disclosure

The Diocese commends survivors for their strength in disclosing incidents of sexual abuse. We are genuinely concerned for all victims of abuse and their families.

Making a disclosure offers hope for the future and is the first step in the process of healing.

The Victims Assistance Coordinator is available to offer support to survivors of abuse as they move toward healing. The Victims Assistance Coordinator is available to offer individual support and guidance, as well as make referrals to licensed continuing care professionals.

After the disclosure is made the Victim Assistance Coordinator will present all relevant information to the Diocesan Review Board and ultimately the Bishop for review. If found eligible the VAC will assist survivors with Service Plan and support.

*First report abuse to the VDSS Child Protective Services:  
1-800-552-7096*

## DIOCESAN REVIEW BOARD

Richmond Diocese Review Board assists the Bishop in examining and assessing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by clergy and other church personnel.

The Review Board is composed of seven individuals that have knowledge, insight or expertise in the protection of minors.

After a disclosure has been presented to the Review Board, a sub-group of the board will conduct an investigation of the claim. The sub-group will present their findings and the Review Board will make a recommendation to the Bishop of Richmond.

The Bishop of Richmond will make the final determination for eligibility of support.

## SERVICE PLAN AND OUTREACH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Each individual found eligible will be offered a Service Plan that includes: types of services to be provided, length of service, and scheduling and fee arrangements. Service Plans addresses any treatment relevant in overcoming trauma associated with sexual abuse.

- Medical expenses including eye, ear, and dental care in which the individual's sexual abuse has caused bodily harm.
- Mental health expenses associated with matters related to the individual's sexual abuse
- Prescriptions for psychotherapy and psychotropic medications for the eligible individual
- Travel to and from approved appointments by the eligible individual

## VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR ROLE

- Meet with survivors and explore survivor needs
- Present victim survivor's story to the Diocesan Review Board
- Maintain regular contact and answer any questions through the Review Board decision process
- Coordinate Service Plans for each eligible individual
- Offer referrals to continuing support providers

## VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

Victim Assistance Coordinator  
7800 Carousel Lane  
Richmond, VA 23294-4201  
1-877-887-9603  
vac@richmonddiocese.org

