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Fulfilling our Pledge to Protect and Heal

GUIDING PARISHES TO HELP PREVENT CHILD ABUSE OVERSEAS

Throughout the Gospel, Jesus Christ teaches us to protect children and offer healing to those who suffer. It is our mission to share this message with our faith communities throughout the world, including those who are engaged in partnerships between the Church in the U.S. and abroad. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) are committed to acting collaboratively on child abuse issues confronting the Church and society.

As members of the universal Church, we are called to live in global solidarity with all of our Catholic brothers and sisters. Many Catholic parishes in the United States answer that call through ongoing relationships of mutual giving and receiving with other non-profit organizations and

“parish-twins.” In these relationships, parishes in the U.S. and overseas share their unique strengths and weaknesses, and create opportunities for dialogue, planning, assessing, challenging, and reflection. These relationships help U.S. parishes support responsible local leadership, in accordance with the needs of the local Church and community. Most importantly, the relationships nurture faith and provide much-needed support to vulnerable children and their families.

The USCCB and CRS believe that U.S. parishes can extend their knowledge and success in preventing abuse, responding to allegations, and providing outreach to victims/survivors by opening a dialogue on these issues with their overseas partners. We encourage U.S. dioceses to empower their parishes to share their experiences and knowledge of child protection with their overseas partners, global missions, and “parish twins.”

Dioceses can provide their parishes with the attached resource to assist their overseas partners in developing and strengthening their child protection policies. Dioceses can also follow up with parishes who have overseas partners to assist them in discussing child and youth protection efforts with confidence. This can also serve as an opportunity to review your own diocesan child protection information with your parishes.



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