



T H E D I O C E S E O F
H O U M A ✠ T H I B O D A U X
Post Office Box 505 ✠ Schriever, Louisiana 70395 ✠

RESOURCES

- I. Pastoral Letter entitled *Light in the Darkness*
- II. Website: www.htdiocese.org/lightinthedarkness
- III. Sample agenda for suggested staff meeting
- IV. Handout: What do you say if you are conversation with others? How do you talk about it?
- V. Handout: What to do if approached by the media?
- VI. Handout: To report sexual abuse



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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING THE RELEASE OF NAMES

Why did the Diocese release these names? After much prayer, consideration, and consultation, the Bishop made the decision to publish this list of names:

- To help victims in their healing
- To regain trust that has been compromised by the recent scandal within the Church

What was the process used to determine which names would be released?

- The 2002 *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* outlines the norms and policies that must be followed regarding the sexual abuse of a minor. The *Charter* not only defines what sexual abuse is, but in so doing, outlines what matters must be brought before the Diocesan Review Board.
- In the fall of 2018, a team of 10 diocesan officials reviewed every file of any priest who ever served within the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux since our beginning in June 1977.
- Any matter of concern regarding an allegation of the sexual abuse of a child was then brought to our Diocesan Review Board.
- Bishop Fabre gave the Diocesan Review Board the authority to determine whether the allegations had evidence of credibility and were substantiated. In so doing, the Diocesan Review Board determined and recommended to Bishop Fabre the list of the names that have been published.

Who is on the Diocesan Review Board?

- Our Diocesan Review Board is intentionally comprised of leaders with backgrounds in law enforcement, legal, medical, and social services.
- The Diocesan Review Board is comprised of seven people. There are six lay leaders with over 200 years of expertise in law enforcement, legal and medical professions, and social services. There is also one priest.
- Our Diocesan Review Board is chaired by Judge Morris Lottinger, Jr., retired chief judge of the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal. He served on the court from 1975 to 1998. The court has both civil and criminal jurisdiction in Terrebonne, Lafourche and St. Mary parishes as well as thirteen other parishes.
- The names of the remaining six members remain confidential.



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WEBSITE

Website: www.htdiocese.org/lightinthedarkness

- Landing page gives you three options:
 1. Button: “Pastoral Letter: Including a list of priests with a credible allegation of child sexual abuse”
 2. Button: “Let’s Talk About It: Video resources for adults and youth”
 3. Button: “The Door is Open: Assistance and resources for victims”
- If you click on those buttons:
 1. Button: “Pastoral Letter: Including a list of priests with a credible allegation of child sexual abuse”
 - Button: “Pastoral Letter”
 - Button: “List of priests with a credible allegation of child sexual abuse”
 2. Button: “Let’s Talk About It: Video resources for adults and youth”
 - Video: How did we get here? Why are we releasing names?
 - Video: For Catholics: How to respond to others?
 - Video: For Parents: How to talk to your children?
 - Video: For teachers: How to talk to students?
 3. Button: “The Door is Open: Assistance and resources for victims”
 - Contact information
 - Links and resources



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**LISTENING
SESSIONS**

Thursday, January 24, 2019 @ 6.00 pm

- Holy Cross in Morgan City (and hosting all of the Morgan City area)

Saturday, January 26, 2019 @ 6.00 pm

- St. Hillary in Matthews (and hosting all of the Central Lafourche area)

Thursday, January 31, 2019 @ 6.00 pm

- Sacred Heart in Cut Off (and hosting all of the South Lafourche area)

Sunday, February 10, 2019 @ 11.30 am

- St. Joseph in Chauvin (and hosting all of the South Terrebonne area)

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 @ 6.00 pm

- St. Bernadette in Houma (and hosting all of the Houma area)

Wednesday, February 27, 2019 @ 6.00 pm

- Christ the Redeemer in Thibodaux (and hosting all of the Thibodaux area)



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STAFF MEETING AGENDA

- I. Welcome and opening prayer
- II. Introductory remarks
 - Why are we releasing names?
 - What was the process?
- III. Review of press release
 - www.htdiocese.org at 12:00 noon
- IV. Silence. Prayer. “How are you?”
- V. Distribution of Pastoral Letter entitled *Light in the Darkness*
- VI. Handout: What do you say if you are conversation with others? How do you talk about it?
- VII. Handout: What to do if approached by the media?
- VIII. Questions and answers
- IX. Closing remarks and closing prayer



WHAT DO YOU SAY IF YOU ARE IN CONVERSATION WITH OTHERS? HOW DO YOU TALK ABOUT IT?

- First, listen to the person you are speaking with. In many comments there is inevitably going to be a great deal of emotion. Listen.
- **Why did the Diocese release these names?** After much prayer, consideration and consultation, the bishop made the decision to publish this list of names:
 - + To help victims in their healing
 - + To regain trust that has been compromised by the recent scandal within the Church
- **Do any active priests of the Diocese have a credible allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor?** No.
- **Are there any active priests on “the list”?** No.
- **Who determined whose name is on the list?** In 2002 the U.S. Bishop’s adopted a document entitled *The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. The *Charter* outlines the norms and policies that must be followed regarding the sexual abuse of a minor. It not only defines what sexual abuse is, but in so doing, outlines what a bishop must do to properly handle the situation.
 - + The *Charter* states that each diocese must have a Diocesan Review Board. The Diocesan Review Board helps the bishop handle the situation properly.
 - + In the fall of 2018, a team of 10 diocesan officials reviewed every file of any priest who ever served within the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux since our beginning in June 1977.
 - + Any matter of concern regarding an allegation of the sexual abuse of a child was then brought to our Diocesan Review Board.
 - + Bishop Fabre gave the Diocesan Review Board the authority to determine whether the allegations had evidence of credibility and were substantiated. In so doing, the Review Board determined and recommended to Bishop Fabre the list of the names that have been published.
- **What do you say to people who question why someone’s name is on the list?** First, do *not* speculate. Do *not* attempt to state why you “*think*” they made the list. What we do know is this: an objective group of seven people who have over 200 years of expertise in law enforcement, legal and medical professions, and social services determined that there was enough credible and substantiated evidence that this name should be released to the public.

- **What do you say to people who question why someone's name *is not* on the list?** Again, do *not* speculate. Do *not* attempt to state why you "*think*" they should make the list. Listen to the person you are talking to.
 - + Remind them: an objective group of seven people who have over 200 years of expertise in law enforcement, legal and medical professions, and social services determined that there was not enough *credible* and *substantiated* evidence for someone's name to be released on *this* list.
 - + This list only refers to that which can be legally defined as "sexual abuse of a minor."
 - + "For allegations to be *credible* **and** *substantiated* we must, at minimum, have a formal allegation on record in their file
 - + If you or they believe a representative of our clergy needs to be added to this list, please refer them or her to our Diocesan Victims' Assistance Coordinator, Sr. Carmelita Centanni, M.S.C., Ph.D. Her number 985.850.3172



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PROTOCOL FOR ADDRESSING MEDIA INQUIRIES

Should *any* member of the media contact you in *any* way seeking information or a comment from you, your response *shall* be:

“I have no comment. Please contact Lonnie Thibodeaux, Director of Communications for the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. His office number is 985.850.3144.”



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PROTOCOL FOR REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE

If a **minor** comes to you saying that he or she *is*, or *has been*, a victim of sexual abuse:

- Call the police immediately
- Ask them to call our Diocesan Victims' Assistance Coordinator, Sr. Carmelita Centanni, M.S.C., Ph.D. Her number 985.850.3172

If an **adult** comes to you saying that they are aware that a **minor** *is* currently, or *has been*, a victim of sexual abuse:

- Call the police immediately
- Ask them to call our Diocesan Victims' Assistance Coordinator, Sr. Carmelita Centanni, M.S.C., Ph.D. Her number 985.850.3172

If an **adult** comes to you saying that *they were* a victim of sexual abuse by clergy or any diocesan employee or volunteer:

- Ask them to call our Diocesan Victims' Assistance Coordinator, Sr. Carmelita Centanni, M.S.C., Ph.D. Her number 985.850.3172