

# Committed to Accountability

## THEMES



- The *Motu Proprio* issued by Pope Francis is a major milestone in the **global effort** to rid the Church of the evil of sexual abuse and misconduct.
- The Holy Father's call for new standards of accountability and sunlight will strengthen anti-abuse standards in countries around the world, including new **oversight of bishops**.
- In the United States, we already have strong protections in place in many areas, such as a **zero-tolerance policy** for sexual abuse, and the ***Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People***, a set of enforceable reforms that have tackled the abuse crisis head on, making the Church a much safer place for the young and vulnerable.
- Building from the reforms of the *Charter* and emboldened by the Holy Father's call, we now commit to implementing a **new round of reforms** that will protect young people and vulnerable adults from abuse at the hands of all clergy, including bishops.
- USCCB's reform agenda includes elements that closely mirror the *Motu Proprio*, such as new **third-party reporting** tools, **whistleblower protections** and a **metropolitan oversight model**.
- **Lay review boards** in every diocese have powerfully impacted our ability to protect children from predators. Therefore, the USCCB encourages each metropolitan to utilize **lay professionals** in all investigations, building upon a tradition of lay expertise throughout the Church.
- The Global Church will soon see **unprecedented protections against abuse**. In the United States, we already enjoy many of these protections, and now seek to strengthen them.