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## **Diocese of Austin will publish names of abusers**

AUSTIN – Bishop Joe S. Vásquez, of the Diocese of Austin, joined the other 15 Texas bishops in announcing today he will publish, by Jan. 31, 2019, the names of clergy, from 1950 forward, who have been credibly accused of sexually abusing a minor.

“My hope in releasing these names is to be transparent and begin to rebuild trust with the people I shepherd. This is only one action in response to this crisis in our church. As the Bishop of the Diocese of Austin, I am committed to protecting children from any abuse. Indeed, this is what Christ expects from me and all who serve His people,” Bishop Vásquez said.

“I am most concerned for the victims who suffered abuse at the hands of clergy, and I ask their forgiveness. I continue to pray for their healing and well-being,” said Bishop Vásquez who celebrated a Mass of Reparation on Oct. 9 at St. Mary Cathedral in Austin. In addition, Bishop Vásquez asked the priests to join him in celebrating a Mass of Reparation and for every Catholic in the Diocese of Austin, beginning Oct. 9, to pray a novena for all victims of sexual abuse by clergy.

Through its Ethics and Integrity in Ministry (EIM) program, the Diocese of Austin has followed the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People since its inception in 2002. The EIM program requires all people in ministry, including clergy, to undergo training and a criminal background check every three years. The diocese has trained more than 79,400 people through its EIM program.

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*The Catholic Diocese of Austin includes 127 parishes, or faith communities, and 21 Catholic schools in 25 counties in Central Texas.*