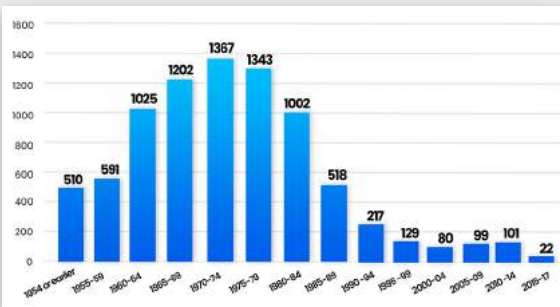


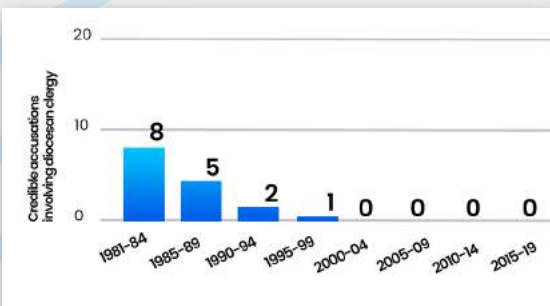
## Number of alleged offenses reported since 2004 "occurring or beginning" during each five-year period

Incidents of clergy sexual abuse in the U.S. Catholic Church have declined sharply since their peak in the 1970s and 1980s, according to a 2018 study by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University.



## Number of credible offenses in the Diocese of Metuchen involving diocesan clergy during each five-year period

The Diocese of Metuchen has not received any credible accusations of abuse involving diocesan clergy alleged to have occurred after 2002, the year the Dallas Charter was implemented.



## A Prayer for Healing

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just: You gave your only Son to save us by his blood on the cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters who have been gravely harmed, and the cries of those who love them.

Soothe their restless hearts with hope, steady their shaken spirits with faith. Grant them justice for their cause, enlightened by your truth.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform brokenness into wholeness.

Grant us the courage and wisdom, humility and grace, to act with justice. Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors. Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

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# Healing, Truth & Hope

A Pastoral Response to the Abuse Crisis



DIocese of METUCHEN

# We protect & report.

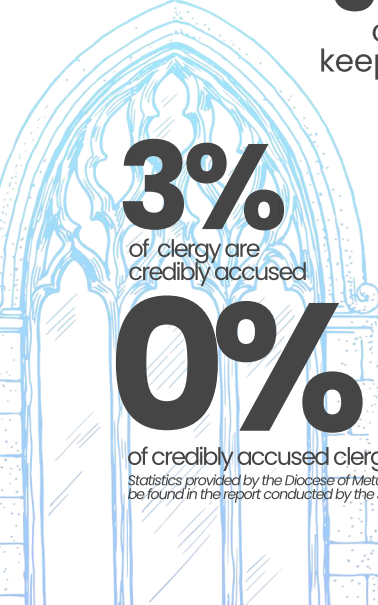
Please report suspected abuse to law enforcement and the diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at (908) 930-4558.

 **56,000** background checks for clerics, employees and volunteers

**38,000** adults trained to recognize signs of abuse and report them 

**100%** of all allegations of sexual abuse reported to law enforcement 

**574,000** children trained to keep themselves safe 

**3%** of clergy are credibly accused 

**0%** of credibly accused clergy are in ministry

Statistics provided by the Diocese of Metuchen. Additional national statistics can be found in the report conducted by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

**\$1.6** million in settlements paid to date 

# We support survivors of abuse.

With renewed fervor, the Diocese of Metuchen is rededicated to providing healing, truth, and hope for the survivors of clergy abuse and for you, the people of God.



"It is only by the willingness of the survivors of abuse who have come forward, who have shared their sufferings and their stories, that we, as a Church, are able to hold accountable those who have caused harm and bring healing to those who have been harmed, and so, we are profoundly grateful for their courage."

**Anthony P. Kearns III, Esq.**

*Chancellor, Diocese of Metuchen*



"While many measures have been taken to strengthen the already effective protection program enacted by the 2002 Dallas Charter, we must continue to ask ourselves, 'what more can we do?' so that we can continue to improve our processes to keep children, young people and the vulnerable safe from harm."

**Doranne Rossiter**

*Diocesan Director of Child and Youth Protection*



"After reviewing the Diocese of Metuchen's archived files in 2018 at the request of Bishop Checchio, I have found that the Diocese has consistently and conscientiously followed its policies and procedures, as no new cases were found. I can confidently say that many of these cases belong to the past, where it is hoped they remain as the Diocese takes another step forward in the protection of children."

**Lisa M. Fittipaldi, Esq.**

*Partner, DiFrancesco, Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum*



"More than anything I would like to see people come forward to the Church, not stay away from it, to tell their stories and ask for help and healing."

**Paule Galette, LCSW**

*Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator*

# We take action.

## Allegations are reported

Allegations of sexual abuse are immediately reported to **law enforcement** and the Diocese of Metuchen cooperates fully in their investigation

## Credibly accused are removed

Credibly accused clergy or lay persons are **immediately removed from ministry** pending the investigation by law enforcement and review by the **Diocesan Review Board**

## Notifications are made

**Announcements are made** in parishes and schools where the accused individual served

## Services are available

**Assistance for help, healing and response** is available for victims and/or their families through the diocesan victim assistance coordinator, who can be reached at **(732) 439-4730**

# We respond.

- 1981** Since its founding, the Diocese has paid over \$1.6 million in settlements to date
- 2002** Diocese undergoes audit by outside law firm and Chancellor to review all clergy files
- 2003** All alleged abuse found through the audit reported to Attorney General and County Prosecutors
- 2005** Accusations against Theodore McCarrick reported by Diocese to Apostolic Nuncio, Attorney General and County Prosecutors
- 2018** Diocese undergoes second external audit of all clergy files – no new cases found; N.J. Dioceses establish Independent Victim Compensation Program; Bishop establishes senior team of advisors to examine, reporting processes; Bishop holds Eucharistic Holy Hour for Healing
- 2019** Diocese names credibly accused diocesan clergy; Former County Prosecutor, Anthony P. Kearns III, Esq., hired as Chancellor to oversee maintenance of archives and records; Bishop participates in USCCB votes for accountability measures, third-party reporting system; Former Deputy Chief of Investigations of Prosecutor's Office hired as Director of Child and Youth Protection; Licensed Clinical Social Worker hired as Victim Assistance Coordinator