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Service to Report Sexual Misconduct Involving U.S. Bishops Launched

LEXINGTON — As part of the Catholic Church’s commitment to accountability of bishops in addressing sexual abuse, the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR) has been established nationwide. This service exists to facilitate reports against any bishop who has engaged in personal sexual misconduct or interfered with an investigation into allegations of misconduct against another cleric and is operated by an independent, third party entity. Individuals may go to ReportBishopAbuse.org or (800) 276-1562 in order to make a report.

When a report is received, it will be forwarded to the local metropolitan archbishop who will undertake the responsibility of initially assessing the report. Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of the Archdiocese of Louisville is the metropolitan who presides over the Province of Louisville, which also includes the Diocese of Covington, Diocese of Lexington, and Diocese of Owensboro in Kentucky and the Dioceses of Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville in Tennessee. In the event that a report is received that concerns Archbishop Kurtz, it will be forwarded to Bishop Roger J. Foy of the Diocese of Covington, who is the senior suffragan bishop of the province.

CBAR does not replace existing reporting systems complaints against priests, deacons, religious or laity. It responds only to complaints against bishops for issues related to sexual misconduct. To report abuse by a priest or anyone affiliated with the diocese, contact the Catholic Diocese of Lexington’s Victim Assistance Coordinator, Laura Napora, at victimsassistance@cdlex.org or (859) 338-5695 and the appropriate law enforcement agency.

In May 2019, Pope Francis released his apostolic letter *Vos estis lux mundi* (“You are the light of the world”). It called upon metropolitan archbishops to undertake the responsibilities for receiving and assessing reports involving bishops that pertain to sexual abuse and related misconduct. In June 2019, the bishops of the United States approved the implementation plan for carrying out the directives of the pope here in the United States. For more information on the reporting service and its operation, please visit: ReportBishopAbuse.org