



Accurate and timely news of the abuse crisis the church faces can be difficult to find. Much of the reporting includes opinion and conjecture. The following information may help you sort through all the events and equip you with the information you need to discuss the subject with family, friends, and coworkers.

June 20<sup>th</sup>: Cardinal Theodore McCarrick resigns as Archbishop Emeritus of the Washington archdiocese after a credible accusation determines he molested a teenager 47 years earlier while a parish priest in New York.

July 16<sup>th</sup>: More complaints lodged documenting his abuse of minors and adult seminarians. The New York Times reported that members of the church hierarchy had been aware of the abuse for decades.

July 28<sup>th</sup>: Pope Francis accepts Archbishop McCarrick's resignation from the College of Cardinals, rescinds the title "Cardinal," and orders him into a life of prayer and penance while he waits to go before a church court.

August 14<sup>th</sup>: The Pennsylvania grand jury report on six dioceses is released. The report covers the period from 1947 to 2016. The grand jury reports that 300 priests abused at least one thousand people during that time span.

August 25<sup>th</sup>: The Missouri Attorney General announces what will be the first of what will become several investigations by other states. The bishops of the Lincoln [NE] and Boston dioceses initiate investigations of their seminaries.

### The Church's Response

August 16<sup>th</sup>: Following on the heels of the United States Council of Catholic Bishops' condemnation, individual bishops throughout the country issued statements to reassure the faithful and comfort the abused.

August 20<sup>th</sup>: Pope Francis issues a letter that condemns the Church's actions on sexual abuse against minors. In it, he acknowledges the failures of the Church in combatting priests' sexual abuse toward minors. "We showed no care for the little ones," he writes. "We abandoned them."

September 13<sup>th</sup>: Delegation from USSCB meets with Pope Francis.

September 20<sup>th</sup>: USSCB announces initial actions: [1] implement a third-party reporting system for complaints against bishops, [2] develop restrictions on bishops removed/resigned due to sexual abuse complaints, and [3] initiate process of developing a Code of Conduct for bishops that address direct abuse and negligence regarding sexual abuse. [4] support a full investigation into Archbishop McCarrick's situation as well as any new information;

On-Going: The USSCB executive committee has been meeting and will present their report at the November 12-15 Bishop's Meeting; the Committee for Protection of Children and Young People, chaired by the Bishop of our diocese, Bishop Timothy Doherty, will submit their recommendations. Pope Francis has called an unprecedented meeting [21-24 February] of the world's bishops to address this crisis. These initial reports and recommendations will be followed by concrete steps to implement practices for bishop's accountability.