

## Here are ten things any US diocese could do TODAY:

1. **LISTEN and APOLOGIZE** - Establish an open door policy for Archbishop/Bishop to listen to survivors, hold listening sessions and respond to all unanswered questions with truth and clarity. When a vulnerable individual is abused or experiences unwelcome sexual advances, the Church often inflicts a second, deeper wound by stonewalling the accuser which has a ripple effect damaging family and friends and leading to additional harm and loss of souls
  - Acknowledging the victims in writing in a timely manner and in person and creating opportunity for Bishops to actively participate in listening to the stories and trying to correct the problems that created the opportunity for abuse to occur
2. **SEEK REPARATION** – Offer masses of reparation, weekly adoration hours and prayers of the faithful to pray for our Church and survivors of sexual abuse
3. **EXPAND** the Dallas Charter to include Bishops and non-clergy paid workers
4. **ENGAGE THE LAITY** – We are here to help! Expand Lay Review Boards to investigate non-clergy allegations too and create lay commissions to examine larger root causes of problem
5. **DEFINE TERMS** used in sexual abuse policies such as Zero Tolerance and “credible”
6. **CLARIFY the PROCESS** of investigations of accusations – who investigates? by what standards are claims, accusations, evidence or witnesses deemed credible? How are decisions communicated? Create opportunity to appeal decision.
7. **ENLIST “GUARDIANS”** to accompany those who report abuse through the process
8. **PROMOTE CHASTITY** of clergy and commitment to their vocation - Provide annual opportunity for clergy to publicly recommit their commitment to their vocation, chastity and fidelity to Church teachings, provide opportunities to live in community
9. **UTILIZE INDEPENDENT ENTITIES** for transparency to process sexual abuse hot line calls; to produce detailed report on credible accusations of abuse by minors or vulnerable individuals by clergy and paid Catholic workers; and to create a financial report detailing money spent on sexual abuse whether in lawyer fees, pay offs or investigation costs. Some diocese are working closely with the Atty General (Denver)
10. **SHARE** info with other diocese to create a national database of the credibly accused