



## **ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE**

**“We are committed to healing the hurting hearts”**

Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

A relationship of faith and commitment exists between the Catholic Church and its members, and the public, whether they are children, young people, adults, or elderly. Sexual abuse in this context, or any other relationship, is a matter of grave concern.

Knowledge of such abuse requires a special response in order to facilitate the healing process and assure the safety of the community. With this in mind, the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee is committed to healing the hurting hearts of sexual abuse victims. This diocese has established Victim Assistance Coordinators who are experienced and trained counselors. These coordinators are available to help persons who have been sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or other church personnel.

### **VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATORS**

*(Let them help you find healing)*

**Louis M. Makarowski Ph.D., P.A.**  
– Pensacola/Ft. Walton  
**(850) 477-7181**

**James Gagnon, MSW, LCSW**  
–Tallahassee/Panama City  
**(850) 877-0205**

**Deacon Santiago Molina**  
For Spanish Speakers - En Español  
**(850) 627-2350**

**Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline**  
**(850) 435-3536**

**These Victim Assistance Coordinators are an additional way that the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee has dedicated itself to addressing sexual abuse by clergy or other church personnel.**

### **WHEN YOU CALL, WE ARE COMMITTED TO:**

- ✓ Being helpful to victims of sexual abuse by clergy or church personnel and facilitate a process of healing and reconciliation
- ✓ Offering victims counseling and services that will assist them in their difficult journey in addressing their pain and suffering.
- ✓ Providing emotional support and companionship to victims as they make their journey in search of healing.
- ✓ To work with local and state authorities in preventing future abuse and to punish those who perpetrate abuse
- ✓ To remove from ministry those who have abused children.

### **PLEASE HELP US IN OUR RESOLVE & COMMITMENT:**

- ❖ Call the 24-Hour Florida Child Abuse Hotline to report a case of sexual abuse. Please call: 1-800-962-2873
  - Victims, Church Personnel, and Members of the Public have are obligated under Florida Law to report child or sexual abuse.
- ❖ Promote “safety education” programs that empower children, young people, and adults to protect themselves from sexual abuse or harassment.
- ❖ Be observant and vigilant when in an environment where children are present.
- ❖ Insist that children (*17 years of age and younger*) be properly supervised
- ❖ Learn more about sexual abuse by participating in Diocesan Sponsored safe environment courses.

