



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Diocese of Crookston Statement re: Reporting Bishop Abuse Options**

**CROOKSTON, MINNESOTA, March 16, 2020** – The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting (CBAR) service became operational this morning. The Bishops of the United States approved the national reporting system following Pope Francis' May 2019 apostolic letter, *Vos estis lux mundi* ("You are the light of the world"), to address the issue of sexual abuse and bishop accountability in the global Catholic Church.

CBAR is an additional resource for individuals to report allegations. It is operated by Convercent, Inc., an independent, third party entity that provides intake services to private institutions for reports of sensitive topics such as sexual harassment, through a secure, confidential, and professional platform. Individuals may make a report by accessing [ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or calling (800) 276-1562. Reports are taken 24 hours a day in English and Spanish.

Reports of sexual abuse by a bishop should be reported first to law enforcement. Reports of sexual abuse or certain related misconduct (i.e., actions or omissions intended by a bishop to interfere with or avoid civil investigation of sexual abuse by clergy or members of religious orders) should also be made to one of the following:

- Attorney Tom Johnson, who serves as an independent ombudsman in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and who has been designated as the layperson to receive any reports against bishops in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota other than Archbishop Hebda, directly at (612) 632-3207 or via email at [thomas.johnson@gpmlaw.com](mailto:thomas.johnson@gpmlaw.com).
- Reports against bishops in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota other than Archbishop Hebda could also be made directly to the Archdiocese by emailing [reportbishopabuse@archspm.org](mailto:reportbishopabuse@archspm.org) or calling (651) 291-4400.
- Reports against Archbishop Hebda should be made to Roxann Storms in the Diocese of Saint Cloud, directly at (320) 248-1563 or via email at [rstorms@gw.stcdio.org](mailto:rstorms@gw.stcdio.org)
- All reports could also be made to the apostolic nuncio in Washington D.C. directly at (202) 333-7121 or via email at [nuntiususa@nuntiususa.org](mailto:nuntiususa@nuntiususa.org).

Full information and additional resources may be accessed by going to [archspm.org/reportbishopabuse](http://archspm.org/reportbishopabuse). Information on making a report against a bishop is also listed at [crookston.org/victims](http://crookston.org/victims) and [crookston.org/offices/safeenvironment/reportingabuse](http://crookston.org/offices/safeenvironment/reportingabuse).

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Released by: Janelle Gergen, Director of Communications  
[jgergen@crookston.org](mailto:jgergen@crookston.org) // 218-281-4533 ext. 428