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## ARCHBISHOP OF NEWARK

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**TO:** PASTORS, PRIEST ADMINISTRATORS, AND DEACONS  
ARCHDIOCESAN DIRECTORS

**FROM:** CARDINAL JOSEPH W. TOBIN, C.S.S.R.

**SUBJECT:** IMPLEMENTATION OF *VOS ESTIS LUX MUNDI*

**DATE:** JUNE 4, 2020

**CC:** KAREN CLARK  
SR. ROSEMARY SMITH, SC, JCD

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Since 2002, the Archdiocese of Newark has publicized a process of reporting allegations of the sexual abuse of minors in accordance with the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and *Essential Norms* as well as a Memorandum of Understanding between the state prosecutors' offices and the NJ Dioceses.

On May 7, 2019, Pope Francis issued an apostolic letter that established norms for holding a bishop accountable for sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable person, possession of child pornography, or the intentional coverup of allegations he received regarding such conduct by a cleric or religious. Attached please find information explaining the implementation of our Holy Father's letter, *Vos estis lux mundi*, (*You are the light of the world*), which establishes new norms for bishop accountability.

I expect you to inform the faithful about the norms and reporting procedures. Below is a sample announcement for your parish website or bulletin. Soon, this information will appear in other media used by the Archdiocese to reach a broader audience.

If you have questions regarding the implementation of *Vos estis lux mundi*, please contact the Assistant to the Cardinal for Canonical Affairs, Sr. Rosemary Smith, SC at 973-497-4292. For questions regarding safe environment and the protection of the faithful, please contact Karen Clark, Director, Department for the Protection of the Faithful, at 973-497-4254.

For your parish website/bulletin:

### **REPORTING ABUSE: AN UPDATE**

Since 2002, the Archdiocese of Newark has formalized a process of reporting sexual abuse allegations, in accordance with the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, *Essential Norms* and a Memorandum of Understanding between the state prosecutors' offices and the NJ Dioceses. A year ago, Pope Francis issued an apostolic letter, *Vos estis lux mundi*, (*You are the light of the world*) that strengthened and formalized the process for holding bishops accountable. As part of the implementation of the letter here in the United States, a platform was created by an independent, third party providing a secure, confidential, and professional way to report allegations against living bishops. This service is in place to gather and relay reports of sexual misconduct involving bishops of the United States, and reports of their intentional interference in a sexual abuse investigation. Individuals may make a report online at [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling toll free (800) 276-1562. If you wish to report any other kind of misconduct by a bishop—or sexual abuse by a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister, or layperson working for the Church—please contact the Archdiocese of Newark at (201) 407-3256.

To make a report involving a bishop that pertains to sexual abuse or related misconduct, visit  
**ReportBishopAbuse.org** or call **(800) 276-1562**.