

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR CHILD PROTECTION & VICTIM ASSISTANCE

---

JULY 1, 2018–JUNE 30, 2019

---

# THE OFFICE OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE

## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Office of Victim Assistance exists to address the harm caused to persons by sexual abuse. In June 2002, the Catholic bishops of the United States met in Dallas and approved the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which established this office. The *Charter* was a continuation of efforts already underway to respond to the problem of child sexual abuse in the Church and society. More recently, the bishops have renewed their pledge to protect children in the future and minister to those who have been harmed in the past. Solutions to these problems are proving to be complex, yet our hope is that we can make a positive impact on those who approach our diocese for assistance. Our bishop, priests, the diocesan staff, and the lay faithful, experience deep sorrow for the pain that has been caused, and our prayers for hope and healing go out to all victims/survivors of sexual abuse.

In the past year, the Victim Assistance staff has endeavored to reach out to persons throughout the Diocese and assist in their healing and recovery through a variety of programs. In an effort to assist those who seek help in ways that meet each individual's specific needs, the office offered Masses and prayer services throughout the Diocese to pray for healing, an annual retreat, support groups, as well as new efforts to reach out, such as educational meetings for victims/survivors, and counseling groups led by mental health professionals. Counseling and therapy by licensed professionals, and spiritual guidance by specially trained priests, religious sisters, and lay people have also been provided to victims/survivors of abuse. The Office of Victim Assistance hopes to walk with each person on the painful journey towards healing and wholeness through and with Jesus Christ.

Frank J. Moncher, Ph.D.  
Director, Office of Victim Assistance

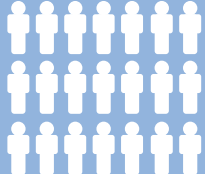
In accordance with Section 2.2 of the *Catholic Diocese of Arlington Policy on the Protection of Children/Young People and Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and/or Child Abuse* the following clergy were placed on "Administrative Leave" due to an allegation(s) of sexual misconduct during the past fiscal year:

- Reverend Michael Kuhn, Y.A. – October 22, 2018 (Cleared to return to ministry on November 25, 2019 after the allegations were found to be unsubstantiated)
- In addition, Rev. Ronald Escalante was placed on administrative leave on December 7, 2018 following allegations of boundary violations that did not rise to the level of sexual abuse of a minor. Father freely admitted to conduct unbecoming and foreign to the clerical state involving two adults (September 28, 2019).

**89** **MASSES/PRAYER SERVICES**   
SINCE 2004

**45** **SUPPORT GROUPS/  
LISTENING SESSIONS** SINCE 2006 

 **232**  
RETREATANTS SINCE 2010

**21** **PERSONS RECEIVED COUNSELING SUPPORT** IN FY2019 

**\$42,000+**

SPENT IN SUPPORT OF HEALING OF  
VICTIMS/ SURVIVORS IN FY2019

**HOW TO REPORT  
INCIDENTS OF  
SUSPECTED CHILD  
ABUSE OR SEXUAL  
MISCONDUCT**



The Office of Victim Assistance seeks to reach out to and support victims of sexual abuse. If you believe there has been an incident of child abuse or sexual misconduct, please visit: [arlingtondiocese.org/Victim-Assistance/How-to-Report-Sexual-Abuse/](http://arlingtondiocese.org/Victim-Assistance/How-to-Report-Sexual-Abuse/) to fill out a form and return it to the Office of Victim Assistance. Should you have any questions or concerns, please call (703) 841-2530.

# THE OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People (OPCYP) is committed to assist every diocesan location in providing a safe environment for youth and adults through screening and training all clergy, employees, and volunteers with substantial contact with minors. All safe environment programs used by the Diocese may be found on the Child Protection page of the diocesan website. In addition, OPCYP continues to offer parents and organizations trainings and presentations in the areas of social media risks, pornography prevention, and sexual human trafficking awareness.

Under the leadership of Bishop Burbidge, the Diocese and OPCYP accomplished the following over the past year:

- Published a list of clergy who served in the Diocese of Arlington, founded in 1974, and who had credible accusations of sexual abuse made against them.
- Implemented a new OPCYP electronic application system.
- Trained more than 3,700 adult employees and volunteers using *Virtus: Protecting God's Children* program.
- Trained more than 30,000 children through the diocesan-approved safe environment programs: *Formation in Christian Chastity* (Elementary and Middle School), *Called to Protect* (High School), and *Tricked* (High School).
- Provided four *Social Media: Teens & Technology* presentations to diocesan parishes.
- Published six articles in the *Arlington Catholic Herald*.

Deacon Marques Silva  
Director, Office for the Protection of Children and Young People

SINCE 2004:



**1,400+**  
VIRTUS SESSIONS

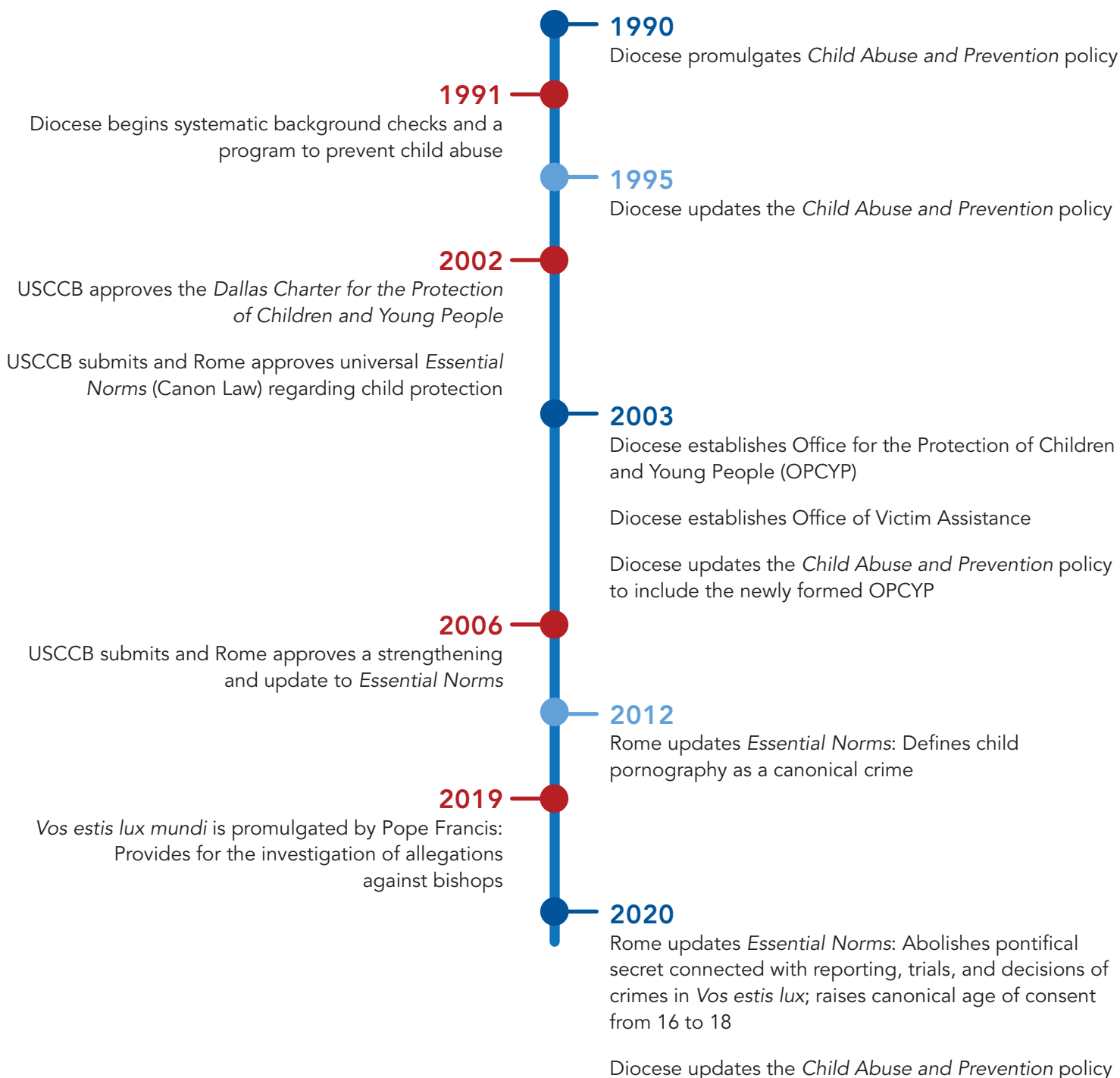


**65,000+**  
CLERGY, EMPLOYEES  
& VOLUNTEERS TRAINED



**64,000+**  
BACKGROUND CHECKS

# OUR HISTORY



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
**ARLINGTON**

## OFFICE OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE

[ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG/VICTIM-ASSISTANCE](http://ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG/VICTIM-ASSISTANCE)

703-841-2530 (personal and confidential)

Frank J. Moncher, Ph.D., Director

Alejandra Canedo, Program Assistant

## OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

[ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG/CHILD-PROTECTION](http://ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG/CHILD-PROTECTION)

703-841-3847

Deacon Marques Silva, Director

Andrew Riley, Program Manager

Karla Canizalez, Program Specialist

Luis Barrera, Data Entry Specialist

Sophia Gebretsadik, Data Entry Clerk