



December 19, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

By way of this letter, I hereby promulgate for the Diocese of Arlington a revised *Policy on the Protection of Children/Young People and Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and/or Child Abuse*. This revised policy will be effective on January 1, 2020.

This updated policy replaces that which was promulgated on September 24, 2003, and it includes the following revisions:

- References to the *motu proprio, Vos estis lux mundi* (May 9, 2019).
- Updated and clarified definition of “child abuse,” including the addition of possession of child pornography as child abuse and as a canonical crime (Section 2.4.e; footnote 2).
- Clarified definition of what is meant by a “credible accusation” (Section 2.6.), including a note discussing the nature of the Review Board process. Also, the term “credible evidence” is no longer used in discussions of the initial stages of the investigatory process; it has been replaced by the term “sufficient evidence to merit further investigation.”
- Separate sections discussing the investigatory process for cases involving clerics (Section 8) and non-clerics (Section 9), respectively.
- Updated summary of civil law reporting requirements, incorporating changes in Virginia law (Attachment A).
- Removal of references to the Diocesan Advisory Board (which was dissolved in 2013; formerly Attachment D).

Please be assured of my continued prayers for you as together we fulfill our mission of making our Church a safe environment for all children and young people.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge  
Bishop of Arlington

Witness: