

ARCHDIOCESE OF AGAÑA

CHANCERY OFFICE

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October 2017

Protocol No. 2017-397

Dear Friends in Christ,

In February 2017, I adopted the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (June 2011) and the Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons (May 2006), making these important policy statements and legal requirements applicable to the Archdiocese of Agaña.

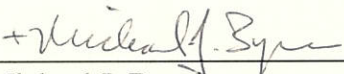
In response to the alarming number of cases concerning past sexual abuse of minors by clergy, we tasked members in our community to review our policy entitled, “Policy on Sexual Misconduct” (April 2002), amended in August 2016 by Apostolic Administrator, Archbishop Savio Hon. Thus, I am grateful for the diligent work of the Safe Environment Ad Hoc Committee and the Independent Review Board.

As a result, three distinct documents were developed, which fully implement the broad policy statements of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and the particular law contained in the Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons. These three policies, although distinct, are intended to work together:

- Archdiocese of Agaña Policy on the Protection of Children and Young People from Sexual Abuse (October 2017)
- Safe Environment Program (October 2017)
- Policy for the Independent Review Board (October 2017)

These documents will help to instigate a change of culture in our Archdiocese. We must now exercise the will, the effort, and the expense to implement completely the provisions set forth. Safe environments for our children must become a reality in our midst

In this month of October, as our nation recognizes Family Violence Awareness Month, it is most fitting that I approve and promulgate these policies. These policies are to be fully implemented by December 31, 2018.



Michael J. Byrnes
Coadjutor Archbishop of Agaña

Oct 13, 2017
Date