

Statement from Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS, regarding Pope Francis' response for the universal Church concerning the crimes of sexual abuse

Those who have suffered sexual abuse by clergy know the pain of the Cross. We are in solidarity with these victims and survivors, accompanying those who are dealing with the aftermath of this evil, this crime. I join my fellow bishops in expressing gratitude to Pope Francis for his role in developing the new norms for the universal Church's handling of sexual abuse. His powerful document, "Vos estis lux mundi" ("You are the light of the world"), emphasizes that Church authorities shall be committed to ensuring that those who state that they have been harmed — together with their families — are to be treated with dignity and respect, be welcomed, listened to, and supported, offered spiritual assistance, and medical and psychological assistance. "... A continuous and profound conversion of hearts is needed, attested by concrete and effective actions that involve everyone in the Church," stated the Holy Father. "This becomes possible only with the grace of the Holy Spirit poured into our hearts." We in the Archdiocese of San Antonio are committed to ensuring this takes place.