

## **Statement from Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS, regarding Vatican abuse summit**

I am grateful for the strong leadership and pointed words from Pope Francis at the Vatican summit on the sexual abuse of minors. The pope made a heartfelt plea “for an all-out battle against the abuse of minors both sexually and in other areas, on the part of all authorities and individuals, for we are dealing with abominable crimes that must be erased from the face of the earth.” The Holy Father also presented eight guidelines to aid the Church in developing her legislation on these issues. I also express my gratitude to Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, for his efforts to promote intensifying the 2002 Charter for the Protection of Young People – known as the Dallas Charter – which governs how our dioceses are to handle sexual abuse allegations against priests. I fully expect action on new proposals and others affirming these ongoing efforts at the U.S. bishops’ conference assembly in June. Here in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, we are moving forward reviewing recommendations proposed by the independent Lay Commission in response to their examination of our files and procedures. These developments will be announced very soon. As I stated at the release of our archdiocesan report on Jan. 31, we know there is still work to be done, and it will continue, guided by the Holy Spirit and greatly assisted by ideas and expertise from the laity.