

# Help for Victims of Sexual Abuse



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

## *A Message from Bishop Matthew H. Clark*

The issue of sexual abuse of our most innocent and vulnerable has caused great pain and sorrow. It is my most fervent hope and prayer that we can help those who have been hurt in the past, find peace—while ensuring that our churches are safe and holy environments for all. I continue to pray that any individuals harmed by a person in a position of trust and authority within our Church receive the spiritual and emotional healing they so rightly deserve. I encourage anyone who has ever been abused by a person of the church in a position of trust and authority to please contact our victims' advocates.

Your Brother in Christ,

† Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Hearing

Listening

Healing

Peace



*"The damage caused by sexual abuse of minors [by priests or other church personnel] is devastating and long-lasting. We reach out to those who suffer, but especially to the victims of sexual abuse and their families. We apologize to them for the grave harm that has been inflicted upon them, and we offer them our help for the future. In the light of so much suffering, healing and reconciliation are beyond human capacity alone. Only God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness can lead us forward, trusting Christ's promise: "for God all things are possible" (Gospel of Matthew 19:26).*

*- From the Preamble, United States Catholic Bishops—June 2002  
"Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People"*



## You do not have to deal with this alone.

If you have been a victim of sexual abuse, you can contact the appropriate civil authorities. To contact the Diocese of Rochester for assistance, please call:

**Barbara Pedeville**, victims' advocate

(585) 328-3210, ext. 1215,  
or 1-800-388-7177, ext. 1215

[pedeville@dor.org](mailto:pedeville@dor.org)



## The Diocese of Rochester promises:

- To listen with compassion and understanding to your story and to investigate fully
- To provide you with names of advocates, support groups, counselors and individual therapists.
- To give you help with spiritual questions and spiritual guidance
- To protect your privacy

We understand that coming forward with a complaint might be difficult—even frightening. We sincerely want to ease your pain and help you find healing. We'll also provide a link to non-diocesan people who can help you.

