

National Review Board Report to the Body of Bishops
Francesco Cesareo, Ph.D., Chair

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In order that these phenomena, in all their forms, never happen again, a continuous and profound conversion of hearts is needed, attested by concrete and effective actions that involve everyone in the Church, so that personal sanctity and moral commitment can contribute to promoting the full credibility of the Gospel message and the effectiveness of the Church's mission.

Pope Francis, "VOS ESTIS LUX MUNDI"

Regarding the action items on the agenda for the 2019 June Plenary Assembly, the National Review Board endorses and recommends the following motions:

- ❖ Adoption of "Acknowledging our Episcopal Commitments" by all bishops.
- ❖ Creation of a national third-party reporting system.
- ❖ Recommend establishment and use of an ad hoc special lay commission to review allegations against bishops.
- ❖ Implementation of protocols regarding non-penal restrictions on bishops.
- ❖ Application of the Metropolitan model for handling allegations against bishops.
However, the National Review Board strongly advises that there be a requirement to involve the laity to assist in the process, as has been the case with lay review boards on the local level.

In addition to these action items, the National Review Board urges the bishops to again consider several of the recommendations presented by the NRB at the June 2018 Plenary Assembly:

- ❖ Require that all allegations be reported to diocesan review boards, following notification of civil authorities.
- ❖ Require diocesan review boards to meet a minimum of once annually, and whenever an allegation is made.
- ❖ Implement an Enhanced Audit Process, designed to be more independent and thorough in measuring compliance with the *Charter* across all dioceses, including individual parishes.
- ❖ Provide ongoing supervision and monitoring of offenders who have not been laicized.
- ❖ Allow the *Charter* to be revised immediately rather than wait the 7 years currently stated in the *Charter*, especially with regard to the explicit inclusion of bishops, which we recommend take effect now.
- ❖ Develop Uniform Standards of Compliance with the *Charter*.
- ❖ Provide an update on the Holy See's investigation into the case of former-Cardinal McCarrick, specifically the release of all documentation that could be released consistent with canon and civil law regarding his misconduct.