

Protocol Applicable to Institutes of Consecrated Life, Societies of Apostolic Life, Personal Prelatures, and Public Associations of the Faithful

Article 1

Each institute of consecrated life, society of apostolic life, personal prelature, or public association of the faithful will provide a copy of its own policies and procedures to the Moderator of the Curia.

Article 2

The presenting community shall provide a written statement about the status, background, character and reputation of each cleric presented for faculties for the Diocese, as provided in the model promulgated by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men. In the case of any incident of sexual abuse of a minor, the presenting community shall submit to the Bishop a comprehensive report of the allegation and its disposition.

Article 3

If a religious cleric exercising public ministry or an apostolate in the Diocese of Crookston is accused of sexual abuse of a minor, the Bishop and the competent religious superior shall confer with each other. Concerning withdrawal from ministerial functions, the Diocese will determine whether or not the cleric may continue to exercise a ministry which involves the care of souls, the public exercise of divine worship, or some other work of the apostolate (cf. cc. 392 and 678, §1). If the Diocese determines that a religious cleric may no longer exercise such ministry in the Diocese, his faculties will be revoked, and his proper Ordinary will be requested to recall the cleric immediately. The religious community retains its rightful autonomy and responsibility to address issues pertaining to its internal affairs, such as a psychological assessment, treatment and aftercare for the accused cleric.

Article 4

If sexual abuse of a minor is alleged to have occurred involving a religious priest or deacon ministering in a parish, parish school, or an entity under the auspices of the Diocese of Crookston, the Diocese retains the right to initiate the process of investigation and follow-up with the Board of Review and take whatever action it deems appropriate. Since religious are also subject to their own proper superiors and the discipline of their institute (c. 678, §2), the religious community may also choose to review the allegation in keeping with its own policies and procedures. If the religious superior removes the religious cleric from the office entrusted to him, the cleric's diocesan faculties will be revoked. However, any determination regarding return to ministry and restoration of diocesan faculties will be made according to the diocesan policies and procedures.

Article 5

If a religious cleric exercising a ministry strictly internal to the religious community without diocesan faculties is accused of sexual abuse of a minor, the religious community may choose to review the allegation in keeping with its own policies and procedures. Any subsequent presentation for diocesan faculties is subject to diocesan policies and procedures. In any case, the Diocese retains the right for a most grave cause to prohibit a member of a religious institute from residing in the Diocese or at any particular location in the Diocese.

Article 6

The major superior of the clerical institute with members ministering or residing in the Diocese, or his delegate, will meet periodically with the Bishop of Crookston or his delegate to coordinate their roles concerning the issue of allegations made against a cleric member of a religious institute ministering in the Diocese.

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+ Victor H. Balke  
Bishop of Crookston

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Major Superior of Clerical Institute

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Date