



**DIOCESE OF
SAN JOSE**

Statement from the Diocese of San Jose on Pastoral Care and Support for Abuse Victims/Survivors

Bishop Oscar Cantú respects the decision of those dioceses in the state, who have chosen to participate in the California Independent Victim/Survivor Compensation and Reconciliation Program.

The Diocese of San José understands that the healing process from sexual assault is unique to every individual - particularly in the cases of clerical sexual abuse. There are many avenues for responding and caring for the victims of clergy sexual abuse.

Our victim/survivor care begins by providing victims with a safe and nurturing environment, which facilitates their first step: disclosure. Specifically, our intake process is trauma-informed and is structured to provide an empowering and validating experience for the victim/survivor to be heard, to know that the Diocese believes them, and to regain control of their narrative as they begin their healing process.

Following disclosure, a partnership is established with the victim/survivor, focusing on healing and reconciliation. Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinators work directly with victim/survivors to complete an assessment and evaluate spiritual, clinical, and social services that the victim and his/her family need to support in their journey of healing and hope. Recognizing that victim/survivor needs may fluctuate over time, we offer ongoing pastoral and clinical care and support.

The Diocese of San José is not participating in the California Independent Victim/Survivor Compensation and Reconciliation Program. Victims/survivors will continue to receive assistance from the Diocese directly.

The Diocese strictly adheres to a zero-tolerance policy and promptly notifies law enforcement and child protective services when abuse is reported, in accordance with mandated reporter laws. The Diocese cooperates with law enforcement during any necessary investigation.

These efforts are led by the Diocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults. All reports are confidential to protect the rights of the victim. Reports to the Diocese are accepted by either online submission or by phone. For online submission, please use the following URL to access our secure third-party reporting server designated for this purpose: <https://opcva.ethicspoint.com> or contact our toll-free 24-hour reporting hotline at 844-372-1691.

For more information, visit <https://www.dsj.org/protecting-gods-children/reporting-abuse-misconduct>.