



# One Year ... Many Changes

*“In my own name, and in the name of the Diocesan Church of Harrisburg, I express our profound sorrow and apologize to the survivors of child sex abuse, the Catholic faithful and the general public for the abuses that took place and for those Church officials who failed to protect children. We have and continue to take steps forward to support survivors and ensure these abuses never occur again.”*

– Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer  
Bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg

## *Acknowledging Our Past*

- ⇒ Released and published all allegations made against Priests, Clergy or Seminarians.
- ⇒ Removal of all bishop’s names from positions of honor within the Diocese for failure to do enough to prevent childhood sexual abuse.
- ⇒ Removal of the names of Priests, Deacons and Seminarians named in the Diocese report and/or the Grand Jury Report from positions of honor within the Diocese.
- ⇒ Conducted nine Listening Sessions, allowing the faithful and survivors to express their concerns, frustrations and feelings.
- ⇒ Created a Survivor Compensation Program, which was managed by a private mediation firm (Commonwealth Mediation and Conciliation, Inc.).
- ⇒ Compensation Program was open for survivors of childhood sexual abuse committed by Harrisburg Clergy, Deacons and Seminarians, as well as Order Priests.
  - ⇒ 112 survivors participated in the Program.
  - ⇒ 106 survivors accepted offers.
  - ⇒ \$12.1 million total payments to Survivors in the Program.
- ⇒ Ensured that all survivors of childhood sexual abuse receive counseling services, at low or no cost to them and from a counselor of their choosing, regardless of their participation in the Survivor Compensation Program; accepting or declining a compensation offer in no way impacted a survivor’s access to counseling.
- ⇒ Created an email address (AskBishopGainer@hbgiocese.org) to offer more access for parishioners and the public to communicate directly with Bishop Gainer.

## *Building a Better Future*

- ⇒ Every report of child sexual abuse is reported to Childline and the appropriate District Attorney as has been our Policy since the early 2000s.
- ⇒ Contracted with Janet McNeal, retired Pennsylvania State Police Captain who oversaw Megan’s Law, to oversee the Diocese’s Safe Environment Program.
- ⇒ Reconstituting the Diocesan Pastoral Council.
- ⇒ Restructuring the Diocesan Review Board.
- ⇒ Revised our Youth Protection Policies.
- ⇒ Maintaining and reforming an intensive screening and education process for those in formation for the priesthood.
- ⇒ Revising the Safe Environment Program lesson plan for our Catholic School and Religious Education students.
- ⇒ Streamlined multiple Diocesan Offices to ensure every parishioners’ dollar is spent efficiently and effectively.
- ⇒ Revised Diocesan Financial reporting to increase transparency.
- ⇒ Revised and enhanced communications materials, including *The Catholic Witness*, and will soon be relaunching a new website.

