



ARCHDIOCESE OF AGANA
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

December 6, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Peace in Christ! In the Gospel according to St. Matthew (18:1-3), the disciples asked Jesus, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."

We treasure our young ones. We nurture and protect them and want them to have confidence that the adults around them will look after their welfare. Through their innocence and natural trust, we can learn how to be closer to God as our Lord taught. We must never again allow their vulnerability to be taken advantage of and instead be vigilant and committed to the Archdiocese's policy on protecting children.

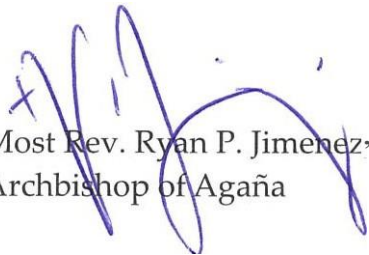
Concisely, the Archdiocese will not recommend or place members of the clergy or laypersons in active ministry who have credible claims of sexual abuse pending against them, are undergoing Church or civil proceedings for the same, or are considered unsuitable due to substantiated accusations of sexual misconduct, particularly with minors. The Archdiocese keeps abreast of and follows civil law and procedures.

To these ends, the Archdiocese responded to the mandate of the 287 courageous men and women who revealed their childhood suffering at the hands of members of the Church. The Archdiocese renewed and strengthened its commitment by filing the Child Protection Protocols in April 2023 following the Confirmed Fifth Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization, more widely known as the now-settled bankruptcy. Within those protocols are the Non-Monetary Commitments. The commitments are a work in progress, but today, the Archdiocese, through its legal counsel, is publishing on its website those named in the sexual abuse lawsuits. Also published today is a disclosure statement on the final judgment decisions by the Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith. You can find this letter and both documents at <https://archagana.org/disclosures>.

There is still much work to do, but through it all, I want you to know the Church has remembered the survivors and their families foremost in prayer. Concerted efforts by my predecessor, His Excellency, Most Reverend Michael Jude Byrnes, and Rev. Fr. Romy Convocar, Apostolic Administrator, who offered private spiritual and professional counseling and invited the survivors to share their testimonies, remain a commitment from me, as well.

My doors are open, and so is my heart. Our broken Church, through her prayers to God with the intercessory aid of our patroness, Santa Marian Kamalen, asks for healing and pledges to walk in fidelity with the survivors and all concerned to the end when we see God face to face and our tears are no more.

Yours with my abiding respect and in the love and peace of Christ,



Most Rev. Ryan P. Jimenez, D.D.
Archbishop of Agaña