



**LEADERSHIP
ROUNDTABLE**
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A Statement from Leadership Roundtable on Pope Francis' announcement of new global Catholic law regarding abuse

Leadership Roundtable welcomes Pope Francis' [*motu proprio*](#), issued today, that contains new global Church law mandating that Catholic leaders report abuse and be held accountable for it. Titled *Vos estis lux mundi*, "You are the light of the world", it goes further than any previous Church laws in its scope of accountability and its global reach. Specifically, bishops will be held accountable for abuse, failure to act, or cover-up, whistleblowers will be protected, and formal structures and procedures for investigations and reporting will be required.

"This is an important step forward for Catholics around the globe, particularly for abuse victims/survivors and their families," said Kim Smolik, CEO of Leadership Roundtable. "While it does not yet address the breadth of culture change necessary to address the root causes of the crises of abuse and leadership failures, it does provide the foundation for bishop conferences to create meaningful accountability policies for their region."

Today's announcement provides a green light for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to establish policies at their June General Assembly that had previously been delayed. Cardinal DiNardo, USCCB president, [issued a statement](#) today that indicates the bishops will let the new law be their starting point as they build upon and expand their current policies relating to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the Essential Norms for dealing with sexual abuse, and the Statement of Episcopal Commitment.

"Leadership Roundtable eagerly anticipates the work of the USCCB in June that we hope will address the application of increased transparency, accountability, and co-responsibility in every diocese in the United States, with meaningful and active lay involvement to ensure the crises of abuse and leadership failures does not happen again.

"Leadership Roundtable looks forward to our continued work with bishops and other Catholic ordained and lay leaders to create a new culture of leadership and management so that the root causes of the crises may be addressed for the long-term health and mission of the Church."

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Leadership Roundtable promotes best practices and accountability in the management, finances, communications, and human resources development of the Catholic Church in the U.S., including greater incorporation of the expertise of the laity.

For more information about Leadership Roundtable, visit www.leadershiproundtable.org