



**A portion of the article by Bishop Michael Barber
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In Oakland, I am calling for an independent outside audit of our Diocesan Review Board policies, to ensure we are faithfully following the precepts of the Dallas Charter, the procedures to investigate sexual abuse by clergy. I also am going to review the membership of the current Diocesan Review Board to make sure it has the number of lay experts we need in the fields of law enforcement, the judiciary, parents, a clinical professional specializing in treatment of childhood trauma and survivors.

In addition to these actions, I am inviting all priests, religious and lay faithful of the diocese to join me in a Novena to St. Joseph, patron of the Universal Church, from Sept. 6-14. We will distribute a Novena prayer to be read at all Masses every day.

On Sept. 14, the Feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross, I call all of us in the diocese to a Day of Prayer, Penance and Reparation for the sins members of the Church have committed against innocent children.

I ask our priests to hold a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in each parish at a convenient time, to pray in reparation, for healing for the victims, and for the cleansing and reform of the Church and her ministers.

I invite us all to do penance that day, especially my brother priests: to fast and make other personal sacrifices in reparation for the pain suffered by the innocent. As Pope Francis said in his "Letter to the People of God:" "The penitential dimension of fasting and prayer will help us as God's People to come before the Lord and our wounded brothers and sisters as sinners imploring forgiveness and the grace of shame and conversion."

In addition, I have been receiving many letters and emails asking me to stand up for the truth and not be afraid to speak out in front of all the bishops on the need for reform. May I also ask you to pray for this intention in the novena and day of reparation?

On the Feast of the Holy Cross, we will stand with Mary at the foot of her son's cross, so that we can grow in the graces of compassion, justice, prevention, reparation — and strength to reform the Church.

+ Bishop Michael C. Barber



Prayer to Protect the Innocent of the Church

*O God in heaven, we beg you to hear us as we
come to you in this time of crisis and pain in the
Church. Please heal the survivors
and protect the innocent.
May your Holy Spirit comfort us,
Give us clarity, and bring light
To this darkness of evil.
Guide us in the path that will end this abuse
And our gravest sins as your Church.
Come into each of our hearts,
Because each of us truly is your Church.
Show us what we must do.
Guide our steps and give us
Your words of wisdom and love.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*