

The Good Shepherd Proposals

We the People of God, the Church of Good Shepherd Parish in Wayland, MA respectfully ask the USCCB the following:

- We want good shepherds as our bishops. This is an opportunity for leadership to be accountable. Anything less than unambiguous, measurable standards and total transparency will perpetuate mistrust and cement our identity as fearful, backward looking, compromising people, unworthy of His example.
- All bishops should be held to the same standards that the Dallas Charter has placed on priests. This would include removal from active ministry at the accusation of misdeeds.
- All ordinaries should turn over diocesan records related to the abuse of children and assignment of priests who have been accused to state's Attorney General offices.
- Any bishop who reassigned a credibly accused priest to another active assignment after 1985 should be removed from active ministry. The bishops have known since 1985 that the medical community could not assure that an abusive priest could be rehabilitated and assure the safety of children in a future assignment.
- The policy of every diocese in the United States must be that any knowledge of abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult be immediately brought to the attention of law enforcement and child welfare authorities.
- The National Review Board must be re-established and made fully independent rather than under the auspices of the USCCB.
- Diocesan review boards established under the Dallas Charter must report to an independent National Review Board rather than to the diocesan ordinary.

- Each seminary or house of formation must establish an independent, laity majority, panel to investigate or hear complaints from seminarians about any misconduct, the board should report to an independent National Review Board rather than the local ordinary.
- We call for each diocese to set up one day a year for twenty-four hours of prayer, fasting, and penance for victims of sexual abuse.
- We encourage each diocese set-up a public forum/listening session where survivors can tell their stories.
- This time of reckoning in OUR Church can be a call to renewal. We encourage each diocese set aside one day to recommit to living out of Matthew Chapter 25 and care for those on the fringes of society, especially victims of sexual abuse.
- Please know we love our church and offer these proposals in support of Good Shepherds to lead us in the United States of America and the world.

(name)

Parishioner of Good Shepherd Parish Wayland, MA