



Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Bishops

From: Bishop James F. Checchio, CCLV Chairman

Date: 14 December 2020

Re: Resources from McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame

Your Eminence / Your Excellency:

I write to inform you of two resources that have been developed by the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame. The McGrath Institute would like to make the bishops of the United States aware of these resources.

- Partly as a response to the stress that many parishes and especially parish priests are feeling in this Covid-19 crisis, the McGrath Institute for Church Life has created a [free digital resource for ordained clergy](#). This is an online version, and enhancement, of the weeks of continuing formation for priests that the McGrath Institute for Church Life has been hosting for the last several summers. It is designed to provide intellectual, pastoral, and practical content for priests to use during these challenging times. The resource has two components: a retreat experience and a professional development series.
- The other resource is a benchmarks project which offers seminaries a comprehensive means for responding to sexual harassment and misconduct. The five benchmarks are: 1) systematic training of seminarians, faculty and staff regarding harassment policies, 2) internal and external reporting and investigation procedures, 3) victim support, 4) periodic assessment of internal policies and 5) consistency and portability of standards to suit local conditions. More information can be found at <https://news.nd.edu/news/mcgrath-institute-invites-seminaries-to-commit-to-sexual-misconduct-policy-benchmarks/>.

I hope that you find these resources useful. Thank you for your kind attention to this memorandum.