



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS
Office of Communications and Planning

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 15, 2019

Media Contact:

Peter Frangie

314.792.7633

peterfrangie@archstl.org

**Statement from Archbishop Robert J. Carlson Following the 2019
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Fall General Assembly**

Archbishop Carlson attended the assembly Nov. 11-13

ST. LOUIS – Archbishop Robert J. Carlson and the Archdiocese of St. Louis fully support the implementation of a national third-party hotline for reporting complaints of abuse and misconduct about bishops, including the funneling of all reports through the metropolitan bishop in each province—an action item on which the bishops were updated during the [2019 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' \(USCCB\) Fall General Assembly in Baltimore](#).

“The protection of our youth is of utmost importance. Since the Charter of 2002, the Archdiocese of St. Louis has asked that anyone who has knowledge of abuse of minors by clergy contact local law enforcement or the Missouri Department of Social Services Child Abuse Neglect Hotline.

I am in full support of the implementation of a national third-party hotline for reporting complaints of abuse and misconduct by bishops to ensure these reports are handled swiftly and appropriately. I will work diligently in my role as metropolitan bishop for the state of Missouri and look forward to collaborating with the other bishops of our state to continue enhancing the protection of youth in our dioceses.”

***- Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson
Archbishop of St. Louis***

The national third-party reporting system will follow the requirements of the “*motu proprio*,” issued by His Holiness Pope Francis in May 2019, for which Archbishop Carlson and the Archdiocese of St. Louis have [expressed support](#). More information on the many resources the Archdiocese of St. Louis has in place to support victims of abuse, as well as the steps that have been taken to strengthen and enhance procedures to ensure children are protected, can be found at archstl.org/promise.

In addition to the national reporting system update, the 2019 assembly discussed several other topics vital to the life of the Church, which Archbishop Carlson would like to further address in the Archdiocese of St. Louis:

- The horrific scourge of gun violence:
 - Archbishop Carlson [echoes Bishop Frank J. Dewane of the Diocese of Venice, Fla.](#), who spoke on this issue at the assembly.
 - Archbishop Carlson convened an [Interfaith Prayer Service to End Gun Violence](#) in October, bringing together nearly a dozen denominations to pray for healing in our community and peace in our streets. He plans to continue collaborating with civil and religious leaders to address violence in St. Louis.
- The nationwide problem of chronic homelessness:
 - The archbishop and the Archdiocese of St. Louis continue to advocate for a “housing first” approach to helping our communities thrive. A new Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) initiative to end homelessness [is being piloted through St. Patrick Center](#), an agency of [Catholic Charities St. Louis](#), along with CCUSA affiliates in four other dioceses.
 - Additionally, Archbishop Carlson has helped provide funding for the [St. Joseph Housing Initiative](#), which provides affordable quality housing for low- and moderate- income families and helps people on the path to owning their own home.
- Women struggling with unplanned or challenging pregnancies and parenting:
 - The archbishop and the Archdiocese of St. Louis [are in full support of the invitation from Archbishop Joseph Naumann](#) of the Diocese of Kansas City, Kan., to devote a year of service to pregnant women beginning in March 2020.
- Updates to the “Program for Priestly Formation”:
 - Prior to the adoption of the sixth edition of the USCCB’s “Program of Priestly Formation” at this year’s assembly, [Kenrick-Glennon Seminary](#) (KGS) in the Archdiocese of St. Louis been a national leader in best practices for seminary formation. KGS continues to lead the way with ongoing updates to its programming, focusing on the integration of human, spiritual and intellectual formation to form healthy and holy priests.
 - Additionally, [several reforms had been made to the formation program at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary since the Charter of 2002](#).
 - Archbishop Carlson [has expressed support](#) for adoption of the new edition of the “Program for Priestly Formation” to ensure that all seminarians continue to be formed in deeper holiness.

Coverage of the 2019 assembly, including an exclusive interview with Bishop Mark S. Rivotuso, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, will be featured in the upcoming edition of the [St. Louis Review](#).

To report any knowledge of abuse by any Church personnel, please contact local law enforcement, or call the Missouri Department of Social Services Child Abuse Neglect Hotline Number: 1-800-392- 3738. In addition, anyone who has knowledge of sexual abuse or

misconduct by a member of the clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis is urged to call the Office of Child and Youth Protection at 314-792-7704.

#CatholicSTL
archstl.org