



# 4th Annual Report Truth, Justice, and Healing

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Giving an account of the commitments made regarding care for victims of abuse and the creation of safe environments

*Prepared by the  
Interdepartmental Commission  
of the General Directorate  
of the Legionaries of Christ*

March 21, 2024



LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST



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# Table of contents:

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## I. Introduction

## II. Toward a Culture of Zero Abuse: 18 years of gradual progress

## III. Commitments of the Congregation 2020–2026: Progress Report for the Year 2023

### A. Care for Victims

#### I. Response to allegations

#### II. An independent channel for victims to be heard and cared for

#### III. Active outreach to victims on behalf of the Congregation

### B. Financial Reparation and Support for Victims

### C. Follow-up on Ongoing Canonical Procedures

### D. Impeding an Investigation or Grave Negligence

### E. Accreditation Processes

### F. Collaboration with External Institutions and Experts

### G. Abuses of Authority and Conscience

## IV. Commitments for 2024

## Appendix I: Toward a Culture of Zero Abuse: Detailed Timeline



I.

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# Introduction

# I. Introduction

We hereby make public this *4th Annual Report* on Truth, Justice, and Healing with sense of responsibility and commitment to the victims of sexual abuse by priests of our Congregation. This document is more than a compilation of activities: it is a reflection of our commitment to abuse victims, especially minors.

Last year, 2023, was a time of renewed commitment and reflection. We focused on listening to and understanding the needs of victims, ensuring that their voices guide our path towards healing and justice. We took steps in implementing the Reparation and Support Program in the hope of offering some comfort and addressing the abuse's impact more comprehensively. Since 2010, we have provided reparation and support to 41 victims of sexual abuse, 17 of whom received help after the 2022 guidelines were instituted.

In 2023, we also initiated a commission to study on the healthy exercise of authority within the Congregation to address the issue of abuses of power and conscience in a global and systematic manner. Currently, the Commission is working on framing this issue within the ecclesial framework, current culture, and the history of the Congregation to then formulate concrete proposals and measures.

This *4th Annual Report* not only details the steps taken in our public commitments but also serves as a constant reminder of our duty to protect the most vulnerable and to tirelessly work to eradicate abuse. We recognize that no action can erase the suffering caused, but with this report, we reaffirm our commitment to active listening, respectful accompaniment, and concrete actions for healing, reparation, and prevention of abuse against minors in the Congregation. We commit to continue this path with humility and determination, without giving in to the difficulties and obstacles that may arise.

The *4th Annual Report on Truth, Justice, and Healing*<sup>1</sup> follows up on the commitments that the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ has undertaken for the promotion of safe environments and in support of victims in any form of abuse that may occur. Likewise, this *4th Annual Report* is directed to all Legionaries of Christ to continue in the effort of conversion and reparation with real and concrete actions as expressed in the document on *Conversion and Reparation*.<sup>2</sup>

*Interdepartmental Committee*  
*General Directorate of the Legionaries of Christ*

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1 The present *4th Annual Report: Truth, Justice, and Healing* has been prepared by the Interdepartmental Commission of the General Directorate of the Legionaries of Christ, which combines the General Secretariat, the Department for Priestly Life, Department for Safe Environments, and the Communications Office. The publication was authorized by the general director, after having heard the opinion of the General Council. Three other reports on the same topic have already been published: *1941–2019 Report* (December 2019), the *1<sup>st</sup> Annual Report: Truth, Justice, and Healing* (March 2021), the *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report: Truth, Justice, and Healing* (March 2022), and the *3rd Annual Report: Truth, justice, and healing* (April 2023). All reports can be found on [0abuse.org](http://0abuse.org)

2 *Conversion and Reparation*, 14.



II.

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Toward a  
Culture of  
Zero Abuse:  
18 years  
of gradual  
progress



## II. Toward a Culture of Zero Abuse: 18 years of gradual progress

In order to give context to and update the progress that has been made up to March 2024, we present a chronology of the measures taken in favor of safe environments for minors and on the road to reparation for victims. A more detailed chronology can be consulted in Appendix I of the Report.

## Toward a Culture of ZERO ABUSE in the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ

2006 – 2014

- Became **aware of and accepted** the reality of the sexual abuse committed by the founder and other members of the Congregation and the need to care for the victims.
- **Implementation of Church regulations** (*Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*) and safe environment standards in several countries.
- **Apostolic Visitation of the Congregation** followed by the period of the pontifical delegate, Card. Velasio De Paolis (2010-2014)

2011 – 2013

- Commission for outreach to the victims of Fr. Marcial Maciel.
- First investigation into the phenomena of abuse by members of the Congregation and first publication of the corresponding data and policies for prevention.

2014 – 2018

**General Chapter:** Petition for forgiveness from the victims and public commitments.

2014

**Implementation of means to prevent abuse from happening again:** Creation, implementation, and external audit of an international safe environment policy.

2019

**What exactly happened?** In-depth investigation of the history of all cases that occurred in the Congregation

Dec. 2019

**Historical Report 1941-2019** Publication of the results of the historical investigation how many cases, when, and where they occurred.

Feb. 2020

The General Chapter publishes two documents publishes: **Conversion and Reparation:** a public acknowledgment of errors, petition for forgiveness, and commitment to cultural change. **Protect and Heal:** strengthening of the international policy on safe environments, the information policy, and promotion of institutional collaboration..I.

Mar. 2021

**Publication of the First Annual Report: Truth, Justice, and Healing 2020:** Rendering an account of care for victims and the publication of each individual case.

Mar. 2022

**2nd Annual Report: Truth, Justice, and Healing 2021:** Rendering an account of care for victims. Guide for financial reparation.

Mar. 2023

**3 rd Annual Report Truth, Justice and Healing.** Third report on the progress toward the commitments made by the Legionaries of Christ. Start-up of the Victim Support and Economic Reparation Program

Mar. 2024

**Fourth annual report Truth, Justice, and Healing.** Fourth accountability report on the commitments undertaken 2020 – 2026. Establishment of a commission to analyze and propose measures that promote the healthy exercise of authority within the Congregation, thereby preventing any form of abuse of power or conscience.



### III.

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Commitments of  
the Congregation  
2020–2026:  
Progress Report  
for the Year 2023

# III. Commitments of the Congregation 2020–2026: Progress Report for the Year 2023.

Below, we present the follow-up on the commitments of the Legionaries of Christ since the 3rd Annual Report on Truth, Justice, and Healing (March 2023). Each section mentions one of the commitments the Congregation assumed for the period 2020-2026 and describes the actions taken during the last year.

## A. Care for Victims

***Commitment: Respond to any allegation according to established procedures and strengthen outreach to victims with whom there is still no contact.***

### I. Response to allegations

Since the historical investigation and the publication of its results in December 2019 in the *1941-2019 Report*, the Congregation has addressed, up to March 1, 2024, complaints related to 16 cases of Legionary priests not accounted for in the historical report. The complaints received pertain to various decades. The current status of these 16 cases is as follows:

- In seven cases, whose canonical and civil procedures have already concluded, no sexual abuse against a minor could be confirmed.
- Two priests were removed from the Congregation and from the clerical state, following the conclusion of canonical procedures.
- Two priests are awaiting the conclusion of both civil and canonical processes.
- There is one case involving seven priests: the canonical investigation, conducted directly by commission of the Holy See, concluded in 2021 that there were no elements to give credence to the accusation; subsequently, in 2023, the case was also brought before civil and criminal forums and is currently ongoing.

- One case is under investigation by civil authorities.
- Three cases are under canonical investigation prior to a potential canonical process.

Additionally, new allegations, complaints, and formal statements have been received regarding cases of priests that had already been published in various reports concerning events from past decades.

One case mentioned in the *1941–2019 Report* is still awaiting the outcome of a police investigation.

Updated statistics can be consulted on the website.

## II. An independent channel for victims to be heard and cared for.

The Congregation continues its pursuit of truth, justice, and healing for each victim, respecting their specific situation and timelines, a commitment that persists even when cases have legally expired.

In 2020, the Legionaries of Christ established a partnership with Esh-má, an external and independent entity specializing in listening to and supporting victims of abuse in the Church, to provide victims with better reception and support wherever the Congregation is present. Esh-má includes among its professionals therapists, social workers, and jurists specialized in restorative justice<sup>3</sup>. This collaboration takes place in locations where the Congregation is present and enables providing victims with better reception and support.

At the time of publication, Esh-má is assisting 49 victims of members of the Congregation, 7 of whom initiated contact after the publication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report (March 2023). Regarding the behaviors suffered by the 49 individuals being assisted, 33 persons reported sexual abuse they suffered as minors and another 3 as adults; 13 persons reported abuses of power and conscience.

For the victims who come forward, efforts are made to facilitate paths that respond to their particular needs for recognition, truth, and reparation to contribute to healing the wounds of abuse.

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<sup>3</sup> For more information on Esh-má, visit: <https://eshma.eus/>

### III. Active outreach to victims on behalf of the Congregation

As mentioned in the previous report (*3rd Annual Report*), in addition to an independent institution that welcomes and accompanies victims who come forward on their own initiative, the Legionaries of Christ also have reached out to some victims of sexual abuse who were already known, seeking to respect each one's timelines and needs.

There is a working team at the General Directorate of the Congregation that monitors each territory<sup>4</sup> and ensures that they have the support and resources necessary to provide personalized support to victims who wish to be assisted in the different countries where they reside. Thanks to the openness and trust of the victims, and the measures being implemented, the Congregation has been able to establish contact with over 60 of the approximately 170 known victims of priests from the Congregation.

The Congregation seeks to get closer to the victims in order to initiate healing processes, respecting their times, moments, spaces and their willingness to interact, always seeking to overcome the difficulties that may arise.

## B. Financial Reparation and Support for Victims

***Commitment: Follow up and strengthen the program for financial reparation and support for victims of sexual abuse by priests of the Congregation 10.***<sup>5</sup>

As presented in the 3rd Annual Report, the economic compensation and support program for victims has an international scope. The goal is to accompany each victim according to their needs through various types of reparations. Therefore, a global program dedicated to the reparation and support of victims has been developed. This program is designed to provide assistance to each individual, addressing their specific needs through various forms of reparation, as we are aware that every person who has suffered abuse deserves to be accompanied in a respectful and prudent manner.

The program was launched in 2022 and currently operates in three countries serving 17 cases (11 cases in 2022; 6 cases in 2023). It is avai-

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4 The term "territory" refers to a geographical area where the Congregation is present, which may consist of part of a country or one or more countries under the governance of a major superior of the same.

5 Cf. *Protect and Heal*, 6.

lable for all territories and consists of the elements presented in the Repair and Support Program graphic.

When a person contacts one of the institutional reporting channels or an independent channel,<sup>6</sup> they are welcomed, accompanied, and informed of possible steps to take. In addition to reporting and processes before civil and Church authorities, assistance is offered according to the reparation program. Thus, the person affected by abuse receives help in narrating their experience, opting for therapy if desired, and expressing any needs they may have, including economic reparation. To the extent possible, economic reparation will take place within a broader restorative justice process aimed at contributing to the holistic healing of the victim.<sup>7</sup>

The Congregation is aware that no reparation can erase or compensate for the harm caused by abuse. However, it seeks to offer comprehensive reparation to contribute to justice and facilitate the victim's healing. The Congregation believes that economic compensation, along with attention and support, can help alleviate, at least in part, the burden carried by those who bear this wound.

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6 Contact information on the last page of this report.

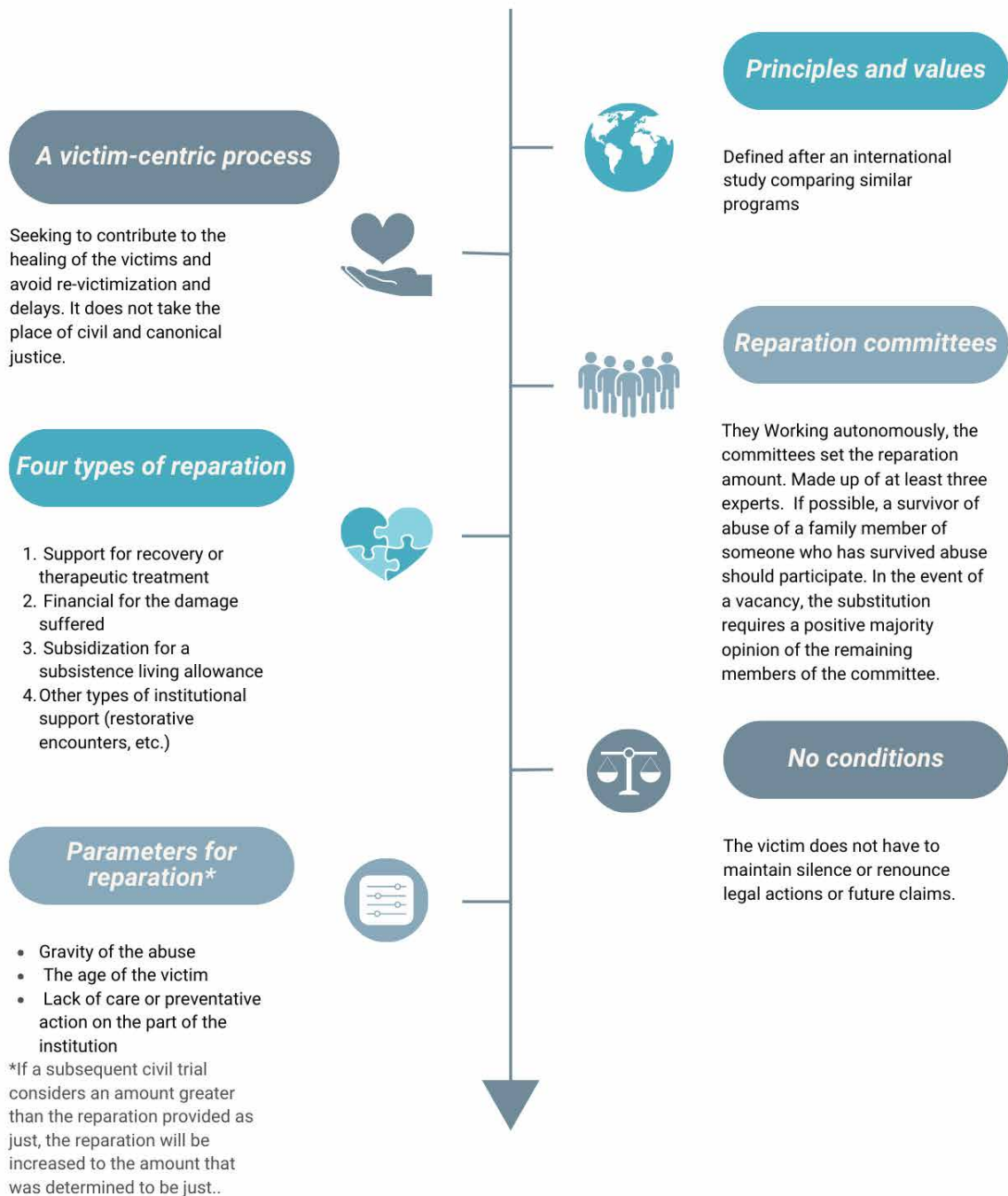
7 Cf. *Protect and Heal*, 3, 6, 11.

# REPARATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

OF THE LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSES

**0abuse.org**

Where possible, the reparation will take place in a broader process of restorative justice that seeks to contribute to the complete healing of the victim. It consists of the following elements:





## C. Follow-up on Ongoing Canonical Procedures

***Commitment: Follow up on ongoing canonical proceedings according to the instructions that the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith gives in each case, constituting the corresponding tribunals and ensuring the participation of external canon lawyers as judges and advisers.***

The abuse against a minor is a crime prosecuted both in the civil sphere under the authority of the state, and canonically under the authority of the Church. The Congregation collaborates with both authorities. Throughout the proceedings, efforts are made to maintain an appropriate flow of information with the individuals who have filed complaints and with the accused priests.

The 3rd Annual Report made reference to 10 ongoing canonical procedures. Over the past year, eight of these cases have concluded and two have not. Of the eight concluded cases, all with the intervention of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, two priests were removed from the clerical state, and another will not have a public priestly ministry. In the other five cases, the canonical proceedings concluded that the reported events either did not occur or did not fall into the canonical category of sexual abuse of a minor.

During the past year, three new canonical procedures have been initiated, including formal investigations and processes. Therefore, there are currently a total of 5 ongoing canonical procedures, which entail the appropriate restrictions on the public ministry<sup>8</sup> of these priests until the matter is clarified and their cases are concluded.

All known cases of priests accused of abuse have either already been submitted to the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith for indications on the procedures to be followed or are still under preliminary investigation.

For more information, you can visit the website [web.0abuse.org](http://web.0abuse.org)

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<sup>8</sup> For more information, please consult: *Guide to Understanding the Fundamental Procedures of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF)*. Available at: [https://www.vatican.va/resources/resources\\_guide-CDF-procedures\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/resources/resources_guide-CDF-procedures_en.html)

## D. Impeding an Investigation or Grave Negligence

***Commitment: With external experts, examine possible evidence of cover-up or grave negligence with respect to past cases of abuse and enact corresponding processes.***<sup>9</sup>

The canonical procedure regarding the actions of some superiors in the handling of a known case of abuse of minors prior to 1992 is still underway.

The procedure being followed, together with the evaluation of the various factors and the indications we received from the DIVCSVA about the canonical norms applicable at this time, will provide important guidelines for dealing with similar situations in the future and assist in the process of reparation for the victims.

## E. Accreditation Processes

***Commitment: Conclude the processes of external accreditation or re-accreditation of safe environment standards that are underway in several territories.***

The Congregation adheres to professional standards<sup>10</sup> established by Praesidium,<sup>11</sup> an internationally recognized organization in the prevention of sexual abuse against minors. Within a process of continuous improvement, there is an external audit of the established safe environment protocols in each territory<sup>12</sup> to ensure compliance with the standards.

During 2023, the territories of Chile-Argentina, Colombia-Venezuela, Mexico-Central America, and Northern Mexico maintained their accreditation, and the territories of Spain and North America renewed their accreditation. The Central European territory began its accreditation process. The territories of Italy and Brazil are preparing to start their accreditation processes.

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9 Cf. *Protect and Heal*, 8.

10 <https://www.0abuse.org/accreditation-standards-2020/>

11 Praesidium is a company specialized in creating and accrediting safe environments. Cf. <https://www.praesidiuminc.com/>

12 Cf. *Protect and Heal* 13-16, 21

## ACCREDITATION STATUS IN DIFFERENT TERRITORIES

### RELEVANT DATA FROM THE YEAR 2023:

#### ACCREDITED TERRITORIES

- Chile-Argentina
- Colombia-Venezuela
- Mexico-Central America
- Northern México



#### REACCREDITED TERRITORIES

- Spain
- North America



#### TERRITORIES THAT HAVE INITIATED THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

- Central Europe



#### TERRITORIES IN PREPARATION TO INITIATE THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

- Italy
- Brazil



As part of the ongoing training plan, international meetings for those involved with abuse prevention and promoting safe environments took place in November 2023. Territorial directors and secretaries, safe environment teams, and communication directors from various countries were able to participate. The meetings addressed topics such as comprehensive care for people's well-being and strengthening interdisciplinary teams to promote a culture of prevention and care.

## F. Collaboration with External Institutions and Experts

***Commitment: Expand collaboration with external institutions and experts, as well as establish forums for consultation with survivors of sexual abuse for the continuous improvement of the Congregation's work in this area.***

As presented in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report, the Congregation recognizes that improving victim care processes requires the support and collaboration of external institutions and experts.

Collaboration with Eshma (<https://eshma.eus/>) continues, as well as with various committees composed of external professionals, experts in different areas (medicine, psychology, legal aspects, among others), who advise on strengthening policies for prevention, supervision, and appropriate victim support.

Finally, safe environment coordinators in different territories have maintained their ongoing training on issues related to prevention, and care for victims of sexual abuse.

## G. Abuse of Authority and Conscience

***Commitment for 2023: Address the issue of abuse of authority and conscience, as noted by the General Chapter.<sup>13</sup>***

The General Chapter, in its “Chapter Decree 2020”, called for “Analyzing the issue of abuses of power and conscience and proposing appropriate measures in view of pastoral formation to prevent such abuse.”<sup>14</sup> In compliance with this mandate, the general director has established a working commission to address the abuse of authority and conscience in a comprehensive and systematic manner.

This commission is composed of religious from different territories, tasked with presenting the concept, phenomenology, and risk factors of abuses of power and conscience in religious and ecclesial life, in

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13 GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST 2020, *You Will Be My Witnesses*, 21: “The priestly ministry demands that we have the highest respect for the dignity and freedom of every person redeemed by Christ. Having recognized with sadness that here too there have been some abuses of power and conscience in the exercise of authority and in our apostolic activity, we ask the General Government to analyze this complex reality and to propose appropriate measures in view of pastoral formation, the prevention of any type of abuse and the healing of those affected.”

14 **Idem**

the history of the Congregation. The aim is to propose appropriate measures related to pastoral formation that aid in the healthy exercise of authority within the Congregation, avoiding any kind of abuse and facilitating the healing of affected individuals.

Currently, this commission is working on framing this issue within the ecclesiastical context, contemporary culture, and the history of the Congregation, in order to later formulate concrete proposals and measures.



IV.

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Commitments  
for 2020–2026

## IV. Commitments for 2020–2026

Throughout 2023 there was progress in several of the commitments that the Congregation established. Nevertheless, there is still a long way to go in search of truth, justice, and healing for the victims. Therefore, we commit to continue on this path and to prioritize the following commitments:

- 1.° Respond to any allegation according to the established procedures and strengthen the active outreach to victims with whom there is still no contact.
- 2.° Follow up on and strengthen the program for financial reparation and support for victims of sexual abuse by priests of the Congregation.<sup>15</sup>
- 3.° Follow up on ongoing canonical proceedings according to the instructions that the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith gives in each case, constituting the corresponding tribunals and ensuring the participation of external canon lawyers as judges and advisers.
- 4.° In 2023, begin an external audit of the work carried out and reflected in the reports that have been published.
- 5.° With external experts, examine possible evidence of cover-up or grave negligence with respect to past cases of abuse and enact the corresponding processes.<sup>16</sup>
- 6.° Carry out the processes of external accreditation or reaccreditation of safe environment standards that are underway in several territories.
- 7.° Expand collaboration with external institutions and experts, and establish forums for consultation with victims of sexual abuse for the continuous improvement of the Congregation's work in this area.
- 8.° Address the issue of abuse of authority and conscience, as noted by the General Chapter: "We ask the General Government to analyze this complex reality and to propose appropriate measu-

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<sup>15</sup> Cf. *Protect and Heal*, 6.

<sup>16</sup> Cf. *Protect and Heal*, 8

res in view of pastoral formation, the prevention of any type of abuse, and the healing of those affected.<sup>17</sup>

In the next annual report, the Congregation will make known the most significant progress on an international level in the fulfillment of these commitments.

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<sup>17</sup> GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST 2020, You Will Be My Witnesses, 21.





## Appendix I:

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# Toward a Culture of Zero Abuse: Detailed Timeline

# Appendix I: Toward a Culture of Zero Abuse: Detailed Timeline

## Steps taken before 2024

To provide context and continuity with previous reports, we present an expanded timeline of actions taken in the prevention and fight against abuses and in support of victims within the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ up to April 2023.

**2006–2014. Awareness and acceptance of the sexual abuse committed by the founder and other members of the Congregation and the need to care for victims. Beginning of the implementation of Church regulations (*Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*) and of safe environment standards in certain countries.** The intervention of the Holy See, the canonical visitation, and the naming of a pontifical delegate helped the Congregation delete become aware of the abuses committed by its founder, Fr. Maciel, and of their effects in the Congregation. Codes of conduct and procedures began to be implemented in the United States and Ireland, countries where the problem began to be addressed with greater urgency and seriousness following the instructions of the episcopal conferences. An initial study was made of the cases known at the time and the interim general director published the results<sup>18</sup>.

**2011–2013. Commission for outreach to the victims of Fr. Marcial Maciel.** The pontifical delegate, Cardinal Velasio De Paolis, instituted the Outreach Commission that cared for the victims of Fr. Maciel who decided to come forward. This commission presented its results to the General Chapter in 2014.

**2014. General Chapter: Petition for forgiveness from victims and recognition of the grave misconduct of Fr. Maciel.** The General Chapter of 2014 recognized the grave misconduct of Fr. Marcial Maciel and asked

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<sup>18</sup> [Statement of the Extraordinary General Chapter of the Legionaries of Christ about the path of renewal that we are traveling](#)

victims for forgiveness in the name of the Congregation.<sup>19</sup> Furthermore, it asked superiors to:

- continue seeking reconciliation with victims of abuse;
- implement the international policy of safe environments for minors and vulnerable individuals;
- accredit their safe environment procedures through specialized and independent institutions.

**2014–2018 Development, implementation, and external audit of an international safe environment policy.** Father Eduardo Robles-Gil, LC, then general director, concentrated his efforts on prevention and responding to – any information – through the crafting and implementation of an international safe environment policy<sup>20</sup> which must be audited in every country by independent specialized institutions. Furthermore, there was some outreach to victims of members of the Congregation to initiate processes of healing and reparation.

**2019 Historical investigation of the cases that occurred in the Congregation.** A commission was established to investigate the archives and any existing documents to identify all the cases of abuse that occurred in the Congregation in all parts of the world from its foundation to the present. It sought to understand the reality of abuse in the Congregation with greater precision to begin a real process of outreach, listening, and reparation with victims, ensure that the guilty receive civil and ecclesiastic legal sanctions, and proceed towards a change of institutional culture.

**2019 (December) Publication of the results of the historical investigation: 1941-2019 Report.**

The Report 1941-2019 on the Phenomenon of Sexual Abuse of Minors in the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ Since its Foundation. This was a key step, with its limitations, toward defining this painful reality, and the following permitted:

- **A historical investigation.** Cases of abuse committed by priests of the Legionaries of Christ between 1941 and 2019 were collected.
- **An analysis of the phenomenon.** An analysis and diagnosis of the phenomenon of abuse of minors in the Congregation was carried out, identifying the specific context and cultural causes which, in each case, facilitated abuse. It was clear that historically the res-

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<sup>19</sup> <https://legionariesofchrist.org/presentation-of-the-communiqués-of-the-general-chapter/>

<sup>20</sup> Cf. *1941-2019 Report*, p. 8-9.

ponse of the Congregation was often characterized by an attitude of institutional defensiveness more than care for the victims.

- **The centrality of the victim.** Victims should be asked for forgiveness with greater truth, recognizing the harm they suffered, and strengthening our commitments and policies to ensure that the victim is at the center of all pathways of healing.
- **Distribution of information.** To accept responsibility and act on a global level, a public commitment to present the findings of the investigation to the highest governing body of the Congregation, the General Chapter, was made.

**2020 (February).** The General Chapter of the Legionaries of Christ was celebrated, the highest governing body of the Congregation, which represents it in its totality. The Chapter published two documents:

- **Giving an account of care for victims and publication of cases and names.** The document Conversion and Reparation was published, directed primarily to victims of abuse and their families, it made an explicit request for forgiveness from each victim and recognized the allegations of the victims as a prophetic good. This document achieved the following:
  - **Recognized concrete errors and committed to correcting them.** It recognized “with pain and shame” the failures and errors that permitted abuse and the inadequate way these crimes were addressed. The Congregation committed to correcting its errors.
  - **Asked the victims for forgiveness.** It mentioned the first accusers of Fr. Marcial Maciel by name, retracted the negative judgments that were made against them, recognized that their allegations regarding truth and justice were prophetic, asked them for forgiveness for the pain they suffered, thanked them for the good they have done the Congregation and the Church itself. It also asked each of the victims who suffered abuse at the hands of a member of the Congregation for forgiveness.
  - **Invited us to a cultural change in order to seek to encounter victims.** It invited the members of the Congregation to examine their consciences regarding their commitment to reach out to victims.
  - **Recognized the role of the press and other institutions as indispensable allies.** It recognized civil and ecclesiastic authorities, society, channels of communication, and organizations that specialize in prevention of abuse and restoration of justice as indispensable allies.

- **Protect and Heal**

**Strengthened the international safe environment policy and the information policy, and promoted institutional collaboration.**

This normative document strengthened the international safe environment policy promulgated in 2014. Some of the key points are:

- **Institutional collaboration.** It promoted collaboration with other ecclesiastical and civil organizations to eradicate the scourge of sexual abuse of minors.
- **Fight against impunity.** It established clear sanctions for those guilty of not reporting or impeding correct actions in the case of sexual abuse.
- **Dismissal from the priesthood and from the clerical state for the guilty.** In addition to sanctions for abuse, it requested that the normal procedure would be to ask the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith to enact the punishment of dismissal from the clerical state and expulsion from the Congregation for those who have committed multiple or repeated abuses.
- **Strengthening of international safe environments policies. Normative.** It strengthened: the principles and protocols of action to respond quickly, efficiently, and pastorally to allegations or claims of a possible case of sexual abuse; healing and reconciliation with the victims of abuse; preventative measures and safe environments; the publication of the cases of Legionaries guilty of abuse.

**2021 (March) 1st Annual Report: Truth, Justice, and Healing. Gave an account of care for victims and publication of cases.**

This first annual report of the Legionaries of Christ included, among other things:

- **Rendering an account: social audit.** The report gave an account of concrete actions in the search for truth, justice, and healing for the victims of sexual abuse against minors by members of the Congregation and in the creation of safe environments in our institutions since the 2020 General Chapter.
- **Publication of each case in different ways.** The report explained the reasons and ways that the names and individual cases of Legionary priests known to have committed abuse are published on a provincial level in different countries.
- **Receiving, listening to, and prioritized care for victims through an independent institution of experts.** The report presented the partnership of the Congregation with Eshmá, an institution of professionals dedicated to victims of abuse in the Catholic Church, which

offers an external independent channel for receiving and caring for the victims of members of the Congregation through different programs.

- **Preparations for a program of financial reparation.** The report explained the progress made toward financial reparation for victims and advances in the safe environment policy put into place in 2014. It published of the commitments for 2021. It made seven public commitments regarding points that it will give priority to throughout 2021.- It updated the information and data on 0abuse.org regarding the 1941–2019 Report.

**2022 (March): 2nd Annual Report Truth, Justice, and Healing.**

- **Accountability for victim care.**
- **Economic reparations program and support for victims.** It explains the program of economic reparations and support for victims developed after a comparative study at the international level of other systems and parameters.

**2023 (March): 3rd Annual Report Truth, Justice, and Healing.**

**Accountability for victim care. Progress in the economic reparations program.**

**2024 (March): IV Annual Report Truth, Justice, and Healing.**

**Accountability for victim care. Formation of a commission to analyze and propose measures that help healthy exercise of authority within the Congregation, avoiding any type of abuse of power and conscience.**

## Contact Information



Institutional reporting channels:  
<https://www.0abuse.org>



Independent victim support channel (Eshma):  
[eshma.eus](https://eshma.eus), [escuchamos@eshma.eus](mailto:escuchamos@eshma.eus),  
Phone / WhatsApp / Telegram: +34 615 26 36 99



Feedback on the 4th Annual Report:  
[0abuse@legionaries.org](mailto:0abuse@legionaries.org)



Press contact: [press@legionaries.org](mailto:press@legionaries.org);



# LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST

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