



5th Annual Report Truth, Justice, and Healing

Accountability for Commitments Undertaken

Regarding Attention to Victims of Abuse and the Creation
of Safe Environments

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

April 3, 2025



LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST

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I

Introduction

I. Introduction

We present the 5th Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing*,¹ giving continuity to our commitment to transparency and taking concrete action to create safe environments in all of the Congregation's activities. This fifth edition sets forth the advancements and the challenges of the time period between March 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024.

Over the past year, we have continued to carry out the tasks necessary to make progress in the actions we committed ourselves to for the period of 2020-2026, including attention to victims through our available channels as well as through independent external institutions. We have also made progress in the program of reparation and in studying the state of the situation of abuse of authority within the Congregation, for which the general director has created a working commission.

Another commitment we are working on is the ongoing formation of the territorial teams for safe environments. In 2024, they were trained in subjects such as Canon Law, Christian anthropology, the creation of economic and restorative justice, which were directed toward a culture of prevention that encourages safe environments.

On the other hand, we have also discovered challenges we still need to face: fostering a greater trust with victims in order to begin working together for truth, justice, and healing. We must also work on strengthening communication in the different moments of the process following an accusation, aiding transparency and effective accompaniment.

Fully aware of our human condition, always subject to both doing things well and to making errors, we strive to work towards a society that regards Christ as its example and guide, while we also recognize the pain that some of our members have caused others, both inside and outside the institution.

We recognize the courage of those who have come forward because this has allowed us to begin the path of institutional betterment, reiterating our commitment to healing, reparation, and prevention of abuse in any of its manifestations.

With this fifth report, we hope to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to protect the most vulnerable, eradicating abuse in all of its forms, and to document our efforts in the progress we have made and the challenges we face. We invite all Legionaries of Christ to continue the path of conversion, as expressed in the document “Conversion and Reparation.”²

Interdisciplinary Commission

General Directorate
of the Legionaries of Christ

1 This Fifth Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing* was prepared by the “Interdisciplinary Commission” of the General Directorate of the Legionaries of Christ, the organ for consultation, collaboration, and follow-up, which consists of the heads of the General Secretariat, the Area of Priestly Life, the area of Safe Environments, and the Office of Communications, and does not have its own authority. The publication of this report was authorized by the general director, having heard the opinion of the General Council. Four other reports have already been published on the same topic: the 1941-2019 Report (December 2019), the First Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing* (March 2021), the Second Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing* (March 2022), the Third Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing* (April 2023), and the Fourth Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing* (March 2024). These documents can be found at Oabuse.org.

2 *Conversion and Reparation*, 14.

Note: At the close of the preparation of this Fifth Annual Report, five accusations were brought against the now ex-chaplain of a school in Madrid, Spain. This case will be reported and counted among the statistics of the next annual report. Information is at <https://regnumchristi.es/comunicado-highlands-el-encinar-capellan/>.



II

Toward a Zero-
Abuse Culture:
19 Years of a
Step-By-Step
Journey

II. Toward a Zero-Abuse Culture: 19 Years of a Step-By-Step Journey

In order to offer a complete overview of the work accomplished since December 2024, we have included a detailed appendix with a timeline of all the implemented measures. This appendix serves as a public record of our commitment to protect minors and to make reparation to victims.

A broader and more detailed timeline can be found in Appendix I of the Report.

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

2006 - 2014

- Slow, gradual, **acceptance and awareness** of the sexual abuse committed by the founder and other members of the Congregation, and the need to attend to victims
- Beginning of the **implementation of the Church's norms** (*Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*) and safe environment standards in some countries
- **Apostolic Visitation of the Congregation** on the part of the Holy See, 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 extent of abuse among members of the Congregation and the first publication of data and prevention policies

2014

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

2014 - 2018

Preparation of means to be put in place to prevent future abuse: Creation and implementation of international safe environment policies and an external audit of these policies

2019

What exactly happened? Deepening of the historical investigation of all the abuse cases in the Congregation

Dec. 2019

1941-2019 Historical Report - Publication of the results of the historical investigation: the number of cases, when, and where they happened

Feb. 2020

The General Chapter publishes: **Conversion and Reparation:** a public acknowledgement of errors, a petition for forgiveness, and the commitment to a culture change; and **Protect and Heal:** strengthening the international safe environment and information policies and encouraging institutional collaboration

Mar. 2021

First Annual Report Truth, Justice, and Healing. The publication of the first accounting for commitments made to victims. The introduction of an independent channel for receiving, listening to, and attending to victims. The publication of all cases one by one, with the name or number code in each territory

Mar. 2022

Second Annual Report Truth, Justice, and Healing. The publication of the second accounting for commitments made to victims. The introduction of the international program of financial reparation and the changes undertaken for healing

Mar. 2023

Third Annual Report Truth, Justice, and Healing. The publication of the third accounting for the commitments undertaken in 2020. The commissioning of the program of financial reparation and help for the victims

Mar. 2024

Fourth Annual Report Truth, Justice, and Healing. The publication of the fourth accounting for the commitments undertaken from 2020 – 2026. The formation of the study commission to analyze and propose measures that aid the healthy exercise of authority within the Congregation, preventing any type of abuse of power or conscience

Apr. 2025

Fifth Annual Report Truth, Justice, and Healing. The publication of the updated report on the accusations received and of the process to come. The conclusions of an investigation on negligence. Information about the formation of territorial safe environment teams that handle accusations, canon law, and priestly well-being as a means of prevention of abuse. Advancement of the study commission on the healthy exercise of authority



III

Commitments of
the Congregation
2020-2026:
Progress Report
for 2024

III. Commitments of the Congregation 2020-2026: Progress Report for the Year 2024

We present an update on the state of the commitments established for the period 2020-2026, from March to December of 2024. Each section shows the progress made.

A. Attention to Victims

Commitment: To respond to any accusation according to established procedures and to strengthen outreach to the victims who we are still not in contact with.

I. Response to accusations received

From 2019, when we published the historical investigation ([Historical Report 1941-2019](#)) through December 31, 2024, the Congregation has received a total of 20 accusations against Legionary priests that are not counted in the historical report. It is important to clarify that these accusations are for cases that happened over several decades.

This is the current situation of these cases:

- In eight of these cases' canonical and civil proceedings that have concluded, sexual abuse against a minor was not able to be verified.
- Two priests were removed from the Congregation and from the clerical state after proceedings.
- Two priests are awaiting the conclusion of civil and canonical processes.

- Two cases are awaiting the conclusion of canonical processes.
- In two cases, the canonical proceedings concluded without a definitive result because, at the judgment of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, it was impossible to progress further. One is already deceased, and the other was removed from the clerical state a few years ago.
- There are four new canonical proceedings, including formal investigations and processes.

In addition, in the case in Chile that involves seven priests, the canonical investigation carried out directly at the Holy See's request ended in 2021 and concluded that there were no grounds to give credibility to the accusation. Later, in 2023, the case was also presented in the civil and penal forums. As of the writing of this Report, it is still in process.

New allegations, denunciations, and formal declarations have been received concerning cases of priests who had already been published in the various reports in relation to events in decades past.

A case mentioned in the 1941-2019 Historical Report awaits the result of a police investigation.

The current statistics are available on the webpage www.0abuse.org

2. An independent channel for listening to, receiving, and attending to victims

As a Congregation, we continue to work towards having each victim be part of a process that can achieve truth, justice, and healing. For this reason, we respect the pace and time of each person based on their particular situation.

As has been made known in previous Annual Reports, since 2020 a collaborative agreement has been in place with Eshma, an independent organization whose professionals include therapists, social workers, and lawyers specialized in restorative justice, and which offers professional support to people who have suffered abuse in institutional, spiritual, or religious environments. (More information at: <https://eshma.eus/>).

Eshamá currently assists 40 victims of members of the Congregation as follows:

- 24 people reported sexual abuse suffered as minors and three as adults.
- 16 reported abuse of power and conscience while they were of legal age. Four of them reported that, in their case, there were behaviors that, due to the situation of vulnerability in which they found themselves, could be qualified as sexual abuse.

On the other hand, nine people have left the service, some of them after fulfilling all or part of the objectives, and others by a voluntary decision.

Finally, with ten of the 40 victims who are currently assisted by the service, there is follow-up of a low intensity, or accompaniment responding to specific requests.

The aim is to provide victims with paths that respond to their individual needs for recognition, truth, and reparation, thus contributing to healing the wounds of abuse.

3. Active outreach to victims by the Congregation

In addition to having an independent institution that supports victims who come forward on their own initiative, the Congregation has a work team in the General Directorate which supervises and accompanies each territory (geographical area where the Congregation is present) and ensures that the necessary resources are offered to provide personalized accompaniment to victims who wish to receive help in the different countries where they reside.

Of the 170 known victims, contact with one was newly established in 2024, bringing the total number of victims we are in contact with to 61.

The Congregation continues to work towards a genuine approach to initiate healing processes, always respecting the pace, moments, and space of the victims, as well as their desire to interact with us, and seeks to overcome the difficulties that may arise along the way.

B. Financial reparation and help for the victims

Commitment: To follow up with and strengthen the program of financial reparation and provide help to victims of sexual abuse against minors on the part of members of the Congregation.³

The financial reparations and support program for victims operates at the international level. Its objective is to provide support to each victim, offering various forms of reparation according to their circumstances and needs. The program is designed to ensure that each person who has suffered abuse receives respectful and considerate accompaniment.

As mentioned in previous reports, when a person comes into contact with one of the institutional reporting channels or an independent channel,⁴ they are welcomed, accompanied, and informed of possible next steps. In addition to the complaint and the processes before the civil and Church authorities, assistance is offered according to the reparation program. Thus, the person affected by abuse is helped to narrate their experience, to opt for therapy if they wish, and to express their needs, including financial reparation. As far as possible, financial reparation will take place within a broader restorative justice process that seeks to contribute to the holistic healing of the victim.⁵

The program was launched in 2022 and continues to be implemented in three countries with 21 cases, four more than those reported in the Fourth Annual Report. It consists of the elements presented in the chart "Reparation and Support Program."

While no reparation can undo abuse, the Congregation seeks to offer comprehensive support that promotes healing for the victim and contributes to justice.

³ Cf. *Protect and Heal*, 6.

⁴ Contact information on the last page of this report

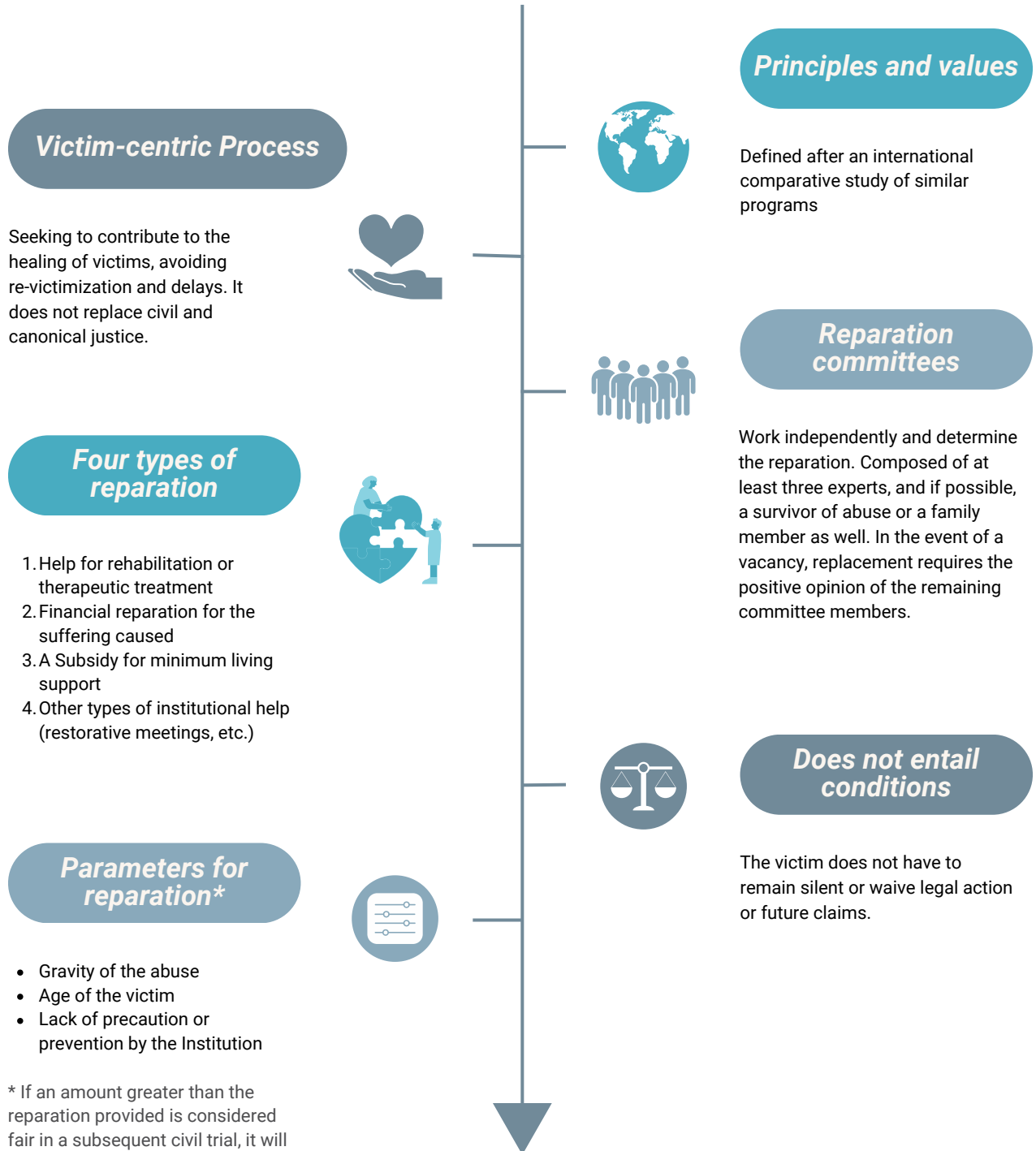
⁵ Cf. *Protect and Heal*, 3, 6, and 11.

PROGRAM OF REPARATION AND HELP

OF THE LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Oabuse.org

As much as possible, financial reparation will take place within a broader restorative justice process that seeks to contribute to the healing of the victim.



* If an amount greater than the reparation provided is considered fair in a subsequent civil trial, it will be supplemented by the remaining amount that was considered fair.

C. Follow-up on the current canonical proceedings⁶

Commitment: To follow up on canonical proceedings in progress, according to the indications given by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith in each case, constituting the corresponding tribunals and ensuring the participation of external canonists as judges and assessors.

In the Fourth Annual Report, five ongoing canonical proceedings were reported. In the period covered by this report, three of these cases have concluded. Of the three cases concluded, all with the intervention of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, in one of them the canonical procedures determined that the events reported did not occur or did not fall within the canonical category of sexual abuse of a minor. The other two concluded without a definitive result because, in the judgment of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, it was impossible to proceed further. During the cut-off period of this report, three new canonical procedures were initiated, including formal investigations and prosecutions. Therefore, there are currently a total of five canonical procedures in progress, which implies due restrictions on the public ministry of these priests until there is clarification on what occurred and a conclusion of their case.

All known cases of priests who have committed abuse and remain in the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ have been submitted to the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith to receive indications on the procedures to be followed or remain in the phase of a preliminary investigation.

More information can be found on the webpage [0abuse.org](https://www.0abuse.org).

⁶ For more information, consult: Guide to Understanding Basic CDF Procedures concerning Sexual Abuse Allegations. Available at: https://www.vatican.va/resources/resources_guide-CDF-procedures_sp.html

D. Concealment or gross negligence

Commitment: Review with external experts any indications of concealment or gross negligence in connection with past abuse cases and prosecute accordingly.⁷

During the year 2022, an independent investigation carried out by a judge of a diocesan canonical tribunal in Mexico was completed to analyze the actions of the major superiors in the case of Fernando Martínez.⁸ The purpose of this investigation was to determine potential personal responsibilities in terms of prevention, response to complaints, attention to victims, and sanctions for those who had committed abuse.

The conclusions of this investigation were submitted to the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (DICALSAL) with the votum (a reasoned opinion on the case) of the general director of the Congregation. After receiving the response from the Dicastery in 2024, the general director issued the concluding decree stating that no indications of crimes of negligence or cover-up were found in the superiors involved. However, it was found that, in subsequent years, one of them was not prompt in dealing with the case and did not apply disciplinary measures in a timely manner, thus causing a scandal among the people who were aware of the facts. The general director confronted and canonically reprimanded the superior. This process was concluded in October 2024.

This case has taught us important lessons about the need to recognize and evaluate any type of accusation, always keeping the victims as the center and priority. It has also allowed us to deal with these situations with greater agility and forcefulness, following canonical and proper regulations, as well as the established protocols. In addition, we continue to work on strengthening internal channels of reporting and on continued collaboration with independent institutions to handle cases adequately.

⁷Cf. [Protect and Heal](#), 8.

⁸ The Congregation will submit itself to an investigation, in coordination with the competent Dicastery of the Holy See, to identify personnel responsibility for negligence or cover-up in this case. The Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ and the individual members of our territory who have been publicly mentioned in this context assure their full collaboration with this investigation, as well as with the civil instances that decide to accept the denunciations presented in relation to this case (cf. 5, [Communiqué of the Territory of Mexico in relation to the recent developments in the case of Fernando Martínez Suárez](#), January 20, 2020).

We remain willing to continue reparation and accompaniment in the healing processes of the victims of this and other cases. We also reiterate our commitment to strengthening a culture of safe environments in all the activities of the Congregation, striving for attentive listening, close accompaniment, and prompt and timely attention to people.

E. Processes of accreditation

Commitment: To complete the processes of external accreditation or re-accreditation in compliance with safe environment standards that are underway in several territories.

As of December 31, 2024, the Territory of Central and Western Europe was awaiting accreditation in Safe Environment standards, granted by the U.S. agency Praesidium⁹, an international organization recognized for its work and track record in accrediting safe environment standards for different types of organizations and institutions.

As indicated in the previous report, during 2024 the territories of Brazil and Italy, as well as the Delegation of Rome, worked on the necessary preparations to start their accreditation, which includes knowledge of the new accreditation standards, preparation of codes of conduct, and preparation of documents, among others.

The state of accreditation in the different territories is detailed in the following chart:

⁹ More information about Praesidium at <https://www.praesidiuminc.com/>

STATE OF ACCREDITATION IN THE DIFFERENT TERRITORIES

DATA FOR THE YEAR 2024:

ACCREDITED TERRITORIES

- Chile
- Colombia-Venezuela
- Spain
- Mexico & Central America
- North America
- North of Mexico



REACCREDITED TERRITORIES



- Spain
- North America

TERRITORIES IN PROCESS OF REACCREDITATION

- Chile
- Colombia-Venezuela
- Mexico and Central America
- North of Mexico



TERRITORY IN PROCESS OF ACCREDITATION

- Western and Central Europe



TERRITORIES IN PREPARATION TO BEGIN THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

- Brazil
- Delegation of Rome
- Italy



F. Collaboration with external institutions and experts

Commitment: To expand collaboration with external institutions and experts and establish spaces for consultation and advice with survivors of sexual abuse for the continuous improvement of the Congregation's work in this field.

The Congregation has taken steps to improve its processes of attention to victims, promoting its commitment to protecting them. Through collaboration with external experts and ongoing training of its coordinators, prevention and response protocols have been strengthened.

Alliances with organizations such as Eshma (<https://eshma.eus/>) and the creation of advisory committees have allowed us to implement more effective measures. Through this we seek to continue generating a climate of trust for better accompaniment of victims.

In addition, in some of the territories where the Congregation is present, complaints are also received through the following channels:

- i) The Episcopal Conference of Chile
- ii) The Episcopal Conference of Argentina
- iii) The Vicariate of Rome
- iv) Tusla, Child and Family Agency, the state agency responsible for child protection, early intervention, and family support services in Ireland
- v) The safe environment office of the Spanish Conference of Religious

Also, throughout the year 2024, territorial coordinators received specialized training aimed at addressing different areas that affect safe environments, such as:

- The definition and elements of Christian anthropology so as to understand the dimensions of the human being.
- Recognition of the limits and generation of well-being.
- Attention to victims and restorative justice.
- The aspects and processes regarding canon law.
- The importance of priestly well-being as a first preventative measure. This is a program that is being implemented in many of the countries where we are present.

G. Abuse of authority and conscience

Commitment for 2023: To address the issue of abuse of authority and conscience, as the General Chapter has indicated.¹⁰

The study commission on the topic of abuse of authority and conscience in the Congregation has prepared a first document, which was presented to the general director and afterwards analyzed by the General Council and the territorial directors. After its review, additional adjustments were requested, so the document continues to be studied and developed, thus allowing a greater number of experts to contribute to its preparation. Likewise, the indications issued in recent months by ecclesial authorities, both from the dicasteries of the Holy See and from various episcopal conferences, are being incorporated.

In preparing this document, studies and practices developed by ecclesiastical, Catholic, and civil universities have been taken into account in relation to the topics addressed. In the coming months, it will be resubmitted to the general director of the Congregation for evaluation.

The mission of this commission is to analyze and propose measures that promote a healthy exercise of authority within the Congregation, avoiding any form of abuse of power or conscience. To this end, it aims to establish adequate guidelines for pastoral formation, the prevention of abuse, and the healing of those affected.

¹⁰ 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.”



IV

Commitments to Fulfill (2025)

IV. Commitments to Fulfill (2020-2026)

Throughout 2024, there has been progress on several of the commitments established by the Congregation for the period 2020-2026. There is still a long way to go in the search for truth, justice, and healing for victims. Therefore, we commit ourselves to continue on the path we have embarked upon, dedicating ourselves to the following commitments as a priority:

- 1.° Listening.** Respond to any accusations according to established procedures and reinforce active outreach to victims who are not yet in contact with us.
- 2.° Making reparation.** Follow up with and update the financial reparation program and support for victims of sexual abuse of minors by members of the Congregation.¹¹
- 3.° Justice.** Follow up on canonical procedures in process according to the indications given by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith in each case, constituting the corresponding tribunals and ensuring the participation of external canonists as judges and advisors.
- 4.° Transparency.** As reported in the Fourth Annual Report, in 2024 the process of an external audit of the work carried out began, as reflected in the published reports. A renowned and experienced institution was contacted, and progress was made in defining the objectives and methodology to be followed. However, due to circumstances external to the Congregation, it was not possible to continue with the process. We are currently working with another institution to carry out the audit of the overall work of the Safe Environments Area.
- 5.° Prevention.** Continue to examine, with external experts, any indications of cover-up or gross negligence in relation to past sexual abuse cases and carry out appropriate processes.¹²

¹¹Cf. Protect and Heal, 6.

¹²Cf. Protect and Heal, 8.

- 6.° Efficiency.** Conduct external accreditation or reaccreditation processes for compliance with safe environment standards that are underway in several territories.
- 7.° Collaboration.** Expand collaboration with external institutions and experts and establish spaces for consultation and counseling with victims of sexual abuse for the continuous improvement of the work carried out by the Congregation in this area.
- 8.° Healthy Authority.** Continue on the path undertaken to address the issue of abuse of authority and conscience, as indicated by the General Chapter: "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."¹³

The Congregation will relate the most significant steps taken at the international level in fulfilling these commitments in the next *Annual Report*.

¹³GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST 2020, *You will be my witnesses*, 21.



Appendix: Detailed Timeline

Appendix I Toward a Zero-Abuse Culture: A Detailed Timeline

Steps prior to 2024

To provide context and an update in continuity with previous reports, we present an extended timeline of the actions taken by the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ in the prevention and fight against abuse and in favor of victims.¹⁴

2006 to 2014. Awareness and acceptance of the sexual abuse committed by the founder and other members of the Congregation and the need to care for the victims. Beginning to implement the Church's norms (*Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*) and safe environment standards in some countries.

The intervention of the Holy See, the canonical visitation, and the appointment of a pontifical delegate helped the Congregation to become aware of the abuses committed by its founder, Father Maciel, and the aftermath they left behind 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 confronted with greater urgency and seriousness, following the guidelines set by the bishops' conferences. An initial study of the cases known at the time was made, and the results were published by the general director.

2011-2013. Outreach Commission to the victims of Fr. Maciel.

The pontifical delegate, Cardinal Velasio De Paolis, instituted the "Outreach Commission," which attended to Fr. Maciel's victims who decided to come forward. This commission presented its results to the 2014 General Chapter.

2014. General Chapter: Petition for an apology to the victims and the acknowledgment of the grave acts of Fr. Maciel.

The General Chapter of 2014 recognized the serious behaviors of Fr. Marcial Maciel and asked forgiveness from the victims on behalf of the Congregation.¹⁵ It also asked the superiors to:

¹⁴ <https://www.legionariosdecristo.org/direcciongeneral/2239-2/>

¹⁵ <https://www.regnumchristi.org/es/comunicado-del-capitulo-lc/>

- Continue seeking reconciliation with the victims of abuse;
- Implement institutional safe environment policies for minors and vulnerable persons;
- Accredite their safe environment procedures through specialized and independent institutions.

2014-2018. Development and implementation of international safe environment policies and their external audit.

The general director of the Congregation at the time, Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil, focused his attention and efforts on prevention and response to any complaint—sign, signal, information, etc.—by designing and implementing safe environment policies at the international level¹⁶, which are to be audited in each country by independent and specialized institutions. In addition, some outreach was made to victims of members of the Congregation to start the processes of healing and reparation.

2019. Historical investigation of the cases that have occurred in the Congregation.

A commission was established to investigate the archives and any existing documentation, with the purpose of identifying all cases of abuse against minors that have occurred in the Congregation from its foundation to the present day, anywhere in the world. Its intention was to discover the reality of abuse in the Congregation with greater accuracy in order to initiate a real path of rapprochement, listening to and making amends with victims, ensuring legal sanctions—civil and ecclesiastical—for the guilty, and following through to an institutional cultural change.

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

The 1941-2019 Report on the phenomenon of sexual abuse against minors in the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ since its foundation was published. It was a key step, albeit with its limits, to put this painful reality into perspective, and it permitted:

- **A Historical Investigation.** Cases of abuse committed by priests of the Legionaries of Christ between 1941 and 2019 were collected.
- **Analysis of the phenomenon.** An analysis and diagnosis of the phenomenon of abuse against minors in the Congregation was carried out, identifying the specific context and the cultural reasons that, depending on the case, facilitated the abuse. It was found that in the

¹⁶Cf. 1941-2019 Report, p. 8-9.

in the past, the Congregation's response to child abuse was often characterized by attitudes of institutional defensiveness rather than attention to the victims.

- **Centrality of the victim.** Victims could be asked for forgiveness more honestly, acknowledging the harm suffered, and strengthening our commitments and policies so that the victim is at the center of the pathways to healing.
- **Dissemination of information.** A public commitment was made to present the findings of the investigation to the General Chapter, the supreme governing body of the Congregation, in order to accept responsibility and take action at the global level.

2020 (February). The General Chapter of the Legionaries of Christ, the supreme governing body of the Congregation, which represents it in its entirety, was held¹⁷. The Chapter published two documents.

- **Accountability for the attention to victims and the publication of cases and names**

The document *Conversion and Reparation* was published, addressed first of all to the victims of abuse and their families, which makes an explicit request for forgiveness to each victim and recognizes the denunciations made by the victims as a prophetic good. This document:

- **Acknowledges concrete errors and commits to correcting them.** It recognizes "with pain and shame" the shortcomings and errors that favored abuses and the inadequate way of dealing with these crimes. The Congregation commits itself to correct its mistakes.
- **Asks the victims for forgiveness.** It mentions by name the first denouncers of Father Marcial Maciel, retracting the negative judgments that had been made against them and recognizing as prophetic their denunciations in favor of truth and justice; it asks for their forgiveness for the pain they suffered; and it thanks them for the good they did to the Congregation and to the Church itself. It also asks forgiveness from each of the victims who suffered abuse caused by a member of the Congregation.
- **It extends an invitation to a change of culture in order to seek encounters with the victims.** It invites the members of the Congregation to an examination of conscience regarding their commitment to reach out to the victims.
- **It recognizes the role of the press and other institutions as essential allies.** It recognizes as essential allies civil and ecclesiastical authorities, society, the media, and organizations

¹⁷ Cf. Code of Canon Law, 631.

specialized in the prevention of abuses and the restitution of justice.

- *Protect and heal*: Strengthening the international policies of safe environments and information policies, and promoting institutional collaboration.

This is a normative document that strengthened the International Safe Environment Policy issued in 2014. Some of its key elements are:

- **Institutional collaboration.** It fosters collaboration with other ecclesiastical and civil organizations to eradicate the scourge of sexual abuse against minors.
- **The fight against impunity.** It establishes clear sanctions for those guilty of failing to report or impeding the correct response in a case of sexual abuse.
- **Expulsion of the guilty from the priesthood and the clerical state.** In addition to the sanctions for any abuse, it requests that in ordinary proceedings the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith be asked to impose the penalty of resignation from the clerical state and the expulsion from the Congregation of those who have committed multiple or repeated abuses.
- **Strengthening the international safe environments policy. Normative.** It reinforces: the principles and protocols of action for responding promptly, effectively, and pastorally to allegations or news of a possible case of sexual abuse; healing for and reconciliation with victims of abuse; preventative measures and safe environments; publication of cases of Legionaries guilty of abuse.

2021 (March). First Annual Report: Truth, Justice, and Healing. Accountability regarding attention to victims and the publication of cases.

This First Annual Report of the Legionaries of Christ includes, among others:

- **Accountability: a social audit.** It accounts for the concrete actions taken since the 2020 General Chapter in the search for truth, justice, and healing for victims of sexual abuse of minors by members of the Congregation¹⁸ and in the generation of safe environments in our institutions.

¹⁸ cf. General Chapter of the Legionaries de Christ 2020, *Protect and Heal*, 28.

- **Publication of each case in different modalities.** It explains the reasons and modalities for the publication, at the provincial level, of the names and individual cases of the Legion of Christ priests known to have committed abuses in the various countries.
- **Listening, receiving, and priority attention to victims through a specialized and independent institution.** It presents the Congregation's collaboration with Eshma, an institution of professionals dedicated to victims of abuse in the Catholic Church, which offers an external and independent channel to welcome and care for victims of members of the Congregation through its various programs.
- **Preparations for a program of financial reparation.** It explains the steps taken towards financial reparations for victims and the progress made in the safe environment policy put in place since 2014.
- **Publication of commitments for 2021.** It makes seven public commitments on points that it will prioritize working on throughout 2021.
- **Updating information and data on 0abuse.org.** It updates the data presented in the 1941-2019 Report.

2022 (March). *Second Annual Report Truth, Justice, and Healing.*

- **Accountability regarding attention to victims.**
- **Program of financial reparation and support for victims.** *It explains the program of reparations and victim support developed after an international comparative study of other systems and parameters.*

2023 (March). *Third Annual Report Truth, Justice, and Healing.*

Accountability regarding attention to victims. Progress in the program of financial reparation.

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

Accountability regarding attention to victims. Formation of the Study Commission to analyze and propose the means to help the healthy exercise of authority within the Congregation, avoiding any form of abuse of power or conscience.

2025 (April) *Fifth Annual Report Truth, Justice, and Healing.*

Updated report on complaints received and the processes being followed. Findings of an investigation into negligence. Information on the training of territorial safe environment teams in the handling of complaints, canon law, and priestly well-being as a preventive measure against abuse. Progress of the Study Commission on the healthy exercise of authority.

Contact info



Institutional channels for complaints:
<https://www.0abuse.org/report/>



Independent channel for attention to victims
(Eshma):
eshma.eus, welisten@eshma.eus,
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