Reporting Sexual Abuse of Minors

- Reports are received either directly from an alleged victim or through a third party (e.g., attorney, relative, counselor, etc.).
- The alleged victim may be alive or deceased. The statute of limitations may be an issue regarding litigation in certain areas.
- An alleged victim may remain anonymous, but this may limit the ability of the diocese to respond satisfactorily.
- Both alleged abusers and alleged victims have rights and obligations (see elsewhere on this website).
- All information received will be treated with confidentiality.
- All alleged victims are advised of their right to report the alleged abuse to public authorities.

The Diocese of Great Falls-Billings is firmly committed to the health and protection of our children and young people.

To report allegations of sexual abuse of children and young persons, or to obtain information regarding the USCCB document "Charter and Norms, please contact:

Teresa Schmit, Victim Assistance Coordinator PO Box 1399 Great Falls, MT 59403-1399 Email: <u>victimassistancecoord@gmail.com</u> Phone: 406-750-2373

These are available 24/7.

Pursuant to diocesan policy, all complaints of sexual abuse involving priests, religious, employees and volunteers serving the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings will be investigated by an outside investigator hired by the diocese.