



Dear Reverend:

There has been proper attention in recent years to the harmful effects of the clergy sex abuse crisis on the Church. But aside from anecdotal accounts we don't know much about how our priests have been affected by the crisis. How has it affected your ministry, your sense of vocation, and your trust in bishops? To work effectively toward healing wounds and rebuilding trust, we first need an accurate assessment of the present state of affairs.

For this reason, The Catholic Project at The Catholic University of America is conducting a National Study of Catholic Priests. The study entails a nationally representative survey of Catholic clergy, in partnership with Gallup, as well as in-depth interviews with priests. The study also includes a national survey of all US Catholic bishops: we want to hear from them, too.

Funding for this study has come from several archdioceses, including New York and Washington. Cardinal Dolan and Cardinal Gregory (who is the chancellor of Catholic University) have been particularly supportive.

Data from the study will provide an in-depth look at priests' experiences and opinions, and will provide us insights into how to move forward to rebuild trust. It is a vital step towards measuring the success of any new initiatives aimed at recovery.

All information about participating individuals and dioceses will be kept completely confidential. This is strictly academic research with no ideological agenda. Results, in aggregate form, will be shared widely with bishops, priests, and laity, and will inform important discussions in the Church.

We very much hope we can enlist your participation in this initiative. It will be of great service to the Church in the United States.

Sincerely,

John Garvey  
President

## Office of the President

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