



**Sisters of Saint Joseph**

**U.S. FEDERATION**

*United in Mission – Loving God and Neighbor*

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**The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph Echoes the Leadership Conference of Women Religious' Statement on Sexual Abuse by Clergy and Calls Church Leadership to Action**

The US Federation of the Sisters of St Joseph aligns with the [Leadership Conference of Women Religious](#) in expressing outrage about the sexual abuse by clergy and the subsequent cover-up by the hierarchy of the Church. We too are left angry and grieving for the thousands of victims of this deplorable situation.

We echo LCWR's call to action and insist that church leadership immediately find ways to support all victims, hold abusers accountable, and elevate the voice of victims to deconstruct the culture of abuse that allowed such atrocities to occur.

For too long, the secrets kept by the hierarchy have excluded female voices from taking a critical look at the important issues of our Church and from playing a key role in formulating, implementing, and evaluating policies. Women and women religious represent a reconciling force within our divided and grieving church. They have a critical role to play in helping the church and should be sought after by leadership.

Since the 1980s women religious have taken this issue very seriously and have responded by creating policies and procedures to address allegations of all forms of abuse and have thoroughly implemented those policies legally and pastorally.

The US Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph embraces the Gospel charism of unifying love for the healing and transformation of the world. We do this through compassionate listening and amplifying the truths that need to be heard. We will continue to work for unity and healing for the survivors, their families, and our Church. We welcome the opportunity to work with our brothers and sisters — lay and religious — to dismantle the culture of abuse within the Church and society.

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The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph is a dynamic union of all the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the United States who claim a common origin in the foundation at LePuy, France in 1650. Today there are approximately 4,203 vowed members as well as 3,032 associates and 25 agrégées in the United States. Worldwide there are over 10,749 Sisters of Saint Joseph and 4,399 associates in over 50 countries.