

## **Office of Victim Assistance & Safe Environment**

### **Rights of a Victim**

Having suffered and survived sexual misconduct at the hands of a priest is one of the most harmful and long-lasting betrayals one can experience. It is possible that you tried to tell your story in the past, and it was not heard or believed. Even now, you may believe you are being judged and condemned. You may not trust or be comforted by expressions of confidentiality and concern. That is why we are making our commitment clear.

The Archdiocese of San Antonio wants you to know that we do hear you and we want to safeguard your rights.

You have the right to:

- Be heard
- Be treated with respect and consideration
- Meet with the Archbishop or his designee
- Report allegations to the appropriate civil authorities
- Seek and retain counsel
- Discretion during the investigation and the right to have your good name protected
- Reply to any response from the accused
- Provide evidence in support of the complaint
- Be told the results of the investigation
- Be free of intimidation by the Catholic Church, the accused, and the faith community

For further assistance please call: The Office of Victim Assistance & Safe Environment

210-734-7786 or 1-877-700-1888