

DELIVER



## EPISODE 4: ARE THE REFORMS WORKING?

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### Summary:

In this episode, we look at the reforms the U.S. Catholic Bishops drafted after the sexual abuse crisis of 2002. How did these new rules change things for Catholics in parishes around the country?

We look at the Dallas Charter for the Protection of Children—a set of policies that the bishops drafted to safeguard children from sex abuse. Governor Frank Keating of Oklahoma tells us what it was like to monitor compliance with anti-abuse policies as the chair of a national review board, and former F.B.I. agent Kathleen McChesney explains how she helped to implement the rules. We also hear from Jane Casserly Myers, a lay Catholic woman who had to deal with these changes in her home parish.

Finally, *America's* national correspondent Michael O'Loughlin explains how one of the public faces of the Dallas Charter—former Archbishop Theodore McCarrick—came to be found guilty of abuse of a minor himself decades later.

### Group Discussion Questions:

When did you first learn about the church's reform policies (The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People)? And have you seen them implemented in your own faith community?

Jane Myers and host Maggi Van Dorn both talk about adopting specific safeguards for protecting kids, but point to the fact that people were calling these policies by different names and therefore, the laity didn't have a comprehensive understanding of the church's reforms. Why is it just as important for the laity to be conversant in these policies as church leadership?

Do you see any opportunities for you to get more personally involved in reinforcing a safe-environment for kids in your parish or school?

The reforms initiated through the Dallas Charter have made a significant impact in protecting children and yet, are not as widely covered in the media as the abuse scandals. How does learning about the Charter, both in terms of its advancements and flaws, leave you feeling about the church today?

## RESOURCES FROM THE EPISODE

[\*\*\*"Disclose the Names of Clergy Abusers: It's time to end the debate"\*\*\*](#) by Kathleen McChesney in *America*

[\*\*\*"Former Cardinal McCarrick faces laicization. What does that mean?"\*\*\*](#) by Michael O'Loughlin in *America*

[\*\*\*Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People\*\*\*](#) adopted by the U.S. bishops (the "Dallas Charter")

Links for all the listed resources can be found on the individual episode pages at [www.americamag.org/deliverus](http://www.americamag.org/deliverus)