6th Annual Report
Truth, Justice, and Healing

Accountability for Commitments Undertaken

Regarding Attention to Victims of Abuse and the Creation of Safe Environments

Prepared by the Interdepartmental Commission
of the General Directorate
of the Legionaries of Christ

November 5, 2026

LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST

Contact Information



Institutional channels for complaints:
https://www.0abuse.org/report/



Independent channel for attention to victims (Eshmá):
https://www.eshma.eus



Email:
welisten@eshma.eus



Phone / WhatsApp / Telegram:
+34 615 26 36 99



To Submit Feedback about the Sixth Annual Report:
Ceroabusos@legionaries.org



Press office:
press@legionaries.org

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I

Introduction

I. Introduction

We present the 6th Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing*, which covers the period from January 1 to December 31, 2025. This document, prepared by the Interdisciplinary Commission of the General Directorate[1], is above all an accounting addressed to the victims of abuse committed by members of the Congregation. It is they who have driven this journey forward with their courage and their pain, and it is they who, first and foremost, deserve to know clearly the steps we have taken and those that still lie ahead of us.

The year 2025 was a year of institutional transition. With the preparation and subsequent celebration of the ordinary General Chapter in January 2026, the 2020-2026 period of government came to a close; it was within this period that the public commitments guiding this series of annual reports were framed. The new general director elected by the Chapter has authorized the publication of this report and has made the commitment to continue the path undertaken his own. The commitments made in 2020 have become part of the identity and mission of the Congregation, and therefore remain in force.[2]

Throughout 2025, actions continued to be carried out to fulfill these commitments: personalized attention to victims, the comprehensive reparation program, follow-up on current canonical proceedings, and safe environment formation in all territories, as well as training for superiors and formators. This year, new accusations were received and were responded to in accordance with current civil and canonical norms. Over these six years, we have learned from both our successes and our mistakes, and we have sought to incorporate feedback from victims, best practices from other bodies, dialogue with external experts, and collaboration with other ecclesial and civil bodies as essential elements of continuous improvement.

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1. The Interdepartmental Commission of the General Directorate of the Legionaries of Christ consists of the heads of the General Secretariat, the Area of Priestly Life, the Area of Safe Environments, and the International Office of Communications. The publication of this report was authorized by the general director, having heard the favorable opinion of the General Council.

2. Over January and February 2026, the Congregation held its General Chapter, which elected the new General Government and set the course for 2026-2032. Its *Chapter Communiqué* (https://legionariesofchrist.org/legionary-library/) includes an assessment of the path traveled in safe environments.
The Chapter acknowledged that neither the document nor its application has been free of errors; therefore, the General Chapter, on behalf of all the Legionaries of Christ, has asked for forgiveness, renewing its commitment to keep learning (*Chapter Communiqué 2026*, no. 137). Regarding *Protect and Heal* —the document in force since 2020—, the Chapter entrusted the general director with promulgating an updated version, which will henceforth fall within his competence. This will allow it to be adapted more readily to developments in canonical and civil norms, without depending on a new General Chapter (*Chapter Communiqué 2026*, no. 139), thus strengthening the institutional capacity to promote safe environments, seek truth and justice, and accompany those affected.

A significant milestone of this period was the completion of the work of the Study Commission on the exercise of authority and obedience in the Congregation, established by mandate of the general director in 2023. The document prepared by this commission, *Authority and Obedience in the Legion of Christ: A Path of Evangelical Renewal*, was presented to the General Chapter for its discernment and attention. We acknowledge the suffering of those who have experienced an inappropriate exercise of authority in the Congregation, and we are grateful to those who, through their testimony and collaboration, have helped make this process of healing and prevention possible.

This report is being published somewhat later than in previous years because the usual drafting phase coincided with the celebration of the General Chapter. We apologize to those who were expecting it sooner.

With the humility and determination with which we have sought to live this journey from the beginning, we continue forward, knowing that no action can erase the harm caused, yet certain that a sustained commitment to truth, justice, and healing is the only path.

Catalina Gallego Barbier

International Director of Safe Environments

On behalf of the Interdepartmental Commission of the General Directorate of the Legionaries of Christ

II

Toward a Culture of Zero-Abuse: 20 Years of a Step-By-Step Journey

II. Toward a Culture of Zero-Abuse: 20 Years of a Step-By-Step Journey

In order to offer a complete overview of the work accomplished through December 2025, we have included a detailed appendix with a timeline of the implemented measures. This appendix serves as a public record of our commitment to protect minors and to make reparation to victims.

Toward a Culture of ZERO-ABUSE in the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ

2006 - 2014

- Slow, gradual acceptance and awareness of the sexual abuse committed by the founder and other members of the Congregation, and the need to attend to victims.
- Beginning of the implementation of the Church's norms (Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela) and safe environment standards in some countries.
- Apostolic Visitation of the Congregation on the part of the Holy See, followed by the period of the pontifical delegate, Card. Velasio De Paolis (2010-2014)

2011 - 2013

- Commission for outreach to the victims of Fr. Marcial Maciel.
- First investigation into the extent of abuse among members of the Congregation and the first publication of data and prevention policies.

2014 - 2018

General Chapter: Petition asking for forgiveness from the victims and public commitments.

2014

Preparation of means to be put in place to prevent future abuse: Creation and implementation of international safe environment policies and an external audit of these policies.

2019

What exactly happened? Deepening of the historical investigation of all the abuse cases in the Congregation.

Dec. 2019

1941-2019 Historical Report - Publication of the results of the historical investigation: the number of cases, when, and where they happened.

Feb. 2020

The General Chapter publishes: ***Conversion and Reparation***: a public acknowledgement of errors, a petition for forgiveness, and the commitment to a culture change; and ***Protect and Heal***: strengthening the international safe environment and information policies and encouraging institutional collaboration.

Mar. 2021

First Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing*. The publication of the first accounting for commitments made to victims. The introduction of an independent channel for receiving, listening to, and attending to victims. The publication of all cases one by one, with the name or number code in each territory.

Mar. 2022

Second Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing*. The publication of the second accounting for commitments made to victims. The introduction of the international program of financial reparation and the changes undertaken for healing.

Mar. 2023

Third Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing*. The publication of the third accounting for the commitments undertaken. The commissioning of the program of financial reparation and help for the victims.

Mar. 2024

Fourth Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing*. The publication of the fourth accounting for the commitments undertaken from 2020 – 2026. The formation of the study commission to analyze and propose measures that aid the healthy exercise of authority within the Congregation, preventing any type of abuse of power or conscience.

Mar. 2025

Fifth Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing*. The publication of the updated report on the accusations received and of the process underway. Information about the formation of territorial coordinators in the handling of accusations, canon law, and priestly well-being as a means of prevention of abuse. Advancement of the study commission on abuse of authority.

Nov. 2026

Sixth Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing*. The final report of the government elected for the 2020-2026 period. Attention to victims, a report on canonical processes, an update on reparation agreements, a request to update *Protect and Heal*, and the conclusion of the work of the study commission on the exercise of authority and obedience in the Congregation, established by mandate of the general director in 2023.

III

Commitments of the Congregation 2020-2026: Progress Report for 2025

III. Commitments of the Congregation 2020-2026: Progress Report for 2025

We present an update on the commitments established for the period 2020-2026, for January 1 to December 31, 2025. In the 2026 report, they will be updated according to the decisions made by the 2026 General Chapter, which are in continuity with the entire path traveled so far.

A. Attention to Victims

Commitment: To respond to any accusation according to established procedures and to strengthen outreach to the victims who we are still not in contact with.

1. Response to accusations received since 2019

From December 2019, when we published the results of the historical investigation (Historical Report 1941-2019), through December 31, 2025, the Congregation has addressed accusations related to 25 cases of Legionary priests that are not counted in the historical report. It is important to clarify that these accusations are for cases that happened over several decades.

In the year covered by this report, five new accusations of sexual abuse of a minor committed by members of the Congregation were received.

This is the current situation of these 25 cases:

- In nine of these cases, whose canonical and civil proceedings have concluded, sexual abuse against a minor was not able to be verified.
- Two priests were removed from the Congregation and from the clerical state after proceedings.
- Seven priests are awaiting the conclusion of civil and canonical processes. The accusations received this year fall into this category.

- Two cases are awaiting the conclusion of a civil process, although their canonical process has already concluded.

- Three cases could not be processed by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith: one because the accused had died, and two because the accused had already left the Congregation and the clerical state at the time of the accusation. The Dicastery's response in one of these cases was received during the year covered by this report.

- There are two accusations in which, so far, it has not been possible to identify the accused due to lack of information. One of them was submitted in 2025.

In addition, in the case in Chile that involves seven priests, the canonical investigation carried out at the Holy See's request ended in 2021 and concluded that there were no grounds to give credibility to the accusations. Later, in 2023, the case was also presented in the civil and penal forums. In 2025, after two years of investigation, the regional prosecutor of the Public Prosecutor's Office specially appointed to the case announced the closing of the criminal investigation and requested that it be dismissed, stating that there was no evidence of the events investigated and no grounds for bringing charges against the persons involved. The related civil process is still ongoing.

A case mentioned in the 1941-2019 Historical Report awaits the result of a police investigation. It is the same case reported in previous reports.

The current statistics are available on the webpage www.0abuse.org

II. An independent channel for listening to, receiving, and attending to victims

As a Congregation, we continue to work so that each victim can find spaces for listening, recognition, and support that contribute to truth, justice, and healing. For this reason, respecting the pace and time of each person based on their particular situation is a principle we will not renounce.

Since 2020, a collaborative agreement has been in place with Eshmá, an independent organization whose professionals include certified therapists, social workers, and lawyers specialized in restorative justice, and which offers professional support to people who have suffered abuse in institutional, spiritual, or religious environments. (More information at: https://eshma.eus).

In some countries, complaints are also received through independent listening channels established by various ecclesial or civil bodies, including, among others, the Delegation for Truth and Peace of the Archdiocese of Santiago de Chile; the Vicariate of Rome; the Episcopal Conferences of Chile, Argentina, and Spain; the Spanish Conference of Religious (CONFER); Tusla, Child and Family Agency in Ireland; and the diocesan Ombudsstelle in Austria. In other countries, the search continues for external listening channels rooted in the local culture in order to offer better attention.

Since 2022, Eshmá has attended to 62 victims of various types of abuse committed by members of the Congregation.

At the close of this report, Eshmá is assisting 31 victims of members of the Congregation as follows:

- 17 people received attention in relation to sexual abuse suffered as minors and three as adults.

- 11 people were assisted in relation to abuse of power and conscience while they were of legal age. Four of them reported that, in their case, there were behaviors with sexual connotations that, due to the situation of vulnerability in which they found themselves, could be qualified as sexual abuse.

- Four people have decided to voluntarily leave Eshmá's service after fulfilling all or part of the objectives.

- Of the 31 victims who are currently assisted by the service, eight have follow-up of a low intensity or accompaniment responding to specific requests.

The aim is to provide victims with paths that respond to their individual needs for recognition, truth, and reparation, thus contributing to healing the wounds of abuse.

III. Active outreach to victims by the Congregation

In addition to the independent institutions that support victims who come forward on their own initiative, the Congregation has a work team in the General Directorate which works together with each territory where the Legionaries of Christ are present to provide personalized and timely accompaniment to victims who wish to receive it.

Of the 170 known victims, in 2025 a path of reconciliation was begun with several more people, at times also offering attention to their families. The territories have continued the outreach to and accompaniment of people previously contacted, always respecting their wishes as to whether or not to be accompanied in some way by the Congregation.

The Congregation continues to work towards a genuine approach to initiate healing processes, always respecting the pace, moments, and space of the victims, as well as their desire to interact with us, and avoiding behaviors and actions that could re-victimize them. It seeks to overcome the difficulties that may arise along the way. It is an established principle that it is solely up to the victims to decide with whom, and to what extent, they wish to share both their experience and the process they are going through.

B. Financial reparation and comprehensive help for victims

Commitment: To follow up with and strengthen the program of financial reparation and provide help to victims of sexual abuse against minors on the part of members of the Congregation.

The financial reparations and support program for victims operates at the international level. Its objective is to provide support to each victim, offering various forms of reparation according to their circumstances and needs. The program is designed to ensure, as far as possible, that each person who has suffered abuse by a member of the Congregation receives accompaniment that contributes to their healing.

When a person comes into contact with one of the institutional reporting channels or an independent channel, they are welcomed, accompanied, and informed of possible next steps. In addition to the complaint and the processes before the civil and Church authorities, concrete assistance is offered according to the reparation program.[3]

3 Contact information at the end of this report.

Through these channels, the person affected by abuse receives assistance in articulating their experience, to opt for therapy if they wish, and to express their needs, including financial reparation. As far as possible, financial reparation takes place within a broader restorative justice process that seeks to contribute to the holistic healing of the victim. Over the course of this year, it has become increasingly clear that, depending on the case, it is fitting to extend pastoral attention to the family of the person affected as well.

The program was launched in 2022 and, at the close of this report, is being implemented mainly in five territories. By their nature, reparation processes are slow, and it is those affected who set their pace. We are committed to continuing to extend the program to the other territories.

Within the framework of this program, two more reparation agreements with victims were signed this year, bringing the total to 64 signed agreements. In accordance with canon law, these agreements do not impose any obligation of silence, nor do they require waiving legal action or future claims regarding the events, nor does the Congregation consider them the end of pastoral attention.

Psychological, legal, and pastoral support continues to be offered to other complainants and victims with whom no reparation agreement has been established.

While no reparation can undo abuse, the Congregation seeks to offer comprehensive support that truly promotes healing for the victim and contributes to justice and truth.

The Safe Environments Area of the General Directorate and its counterparts in the territories maintain ongoing dialogue with other ecclesiastical and civil institutions to seek continuous improvement in this field, in keeping with the legal frameworks of each country.

PROGRAM OF REPARATION AND HELP

OFFERED BY THE LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

0abuse.org

As much as possible, financial reparation takes place within a broader restorative justice process that seeks to contribute to the healing of the victim.

Victim-centric Process

Seeking to contribute to the healing of victims, avoiding re-victimization and delays. It does not replace civil and canonical justice.

Four types of reparation

1. Help for rehabilitation or therapeutic treatment
2. Financial reparation for the suffering caused
3. A Subsidy for minimum living support
4. Other types of institutional help (restorative meetings, etc.)

*Parameters for reparation**

- **Gravity of the abuse**
- **Age of the victim**
- **Lack of precaution or prevention by the Institution**

* If an amount greater than the reparation provided is considered fair in a subsequent civil trial, it will be supplemented by the remaining amount that was considered fair.

Principles and values

Defined after an international comparative study of similar programs

Reparation committees

Work independently and determine the reparation. Composed of at least three experts, and if possible, a survivor of abuse or a family member as well. In the event of a vacancy, replacement requires the positive opinion of the remaining committee members.

Does not entail conditions

The victim does not have to remain silent or waive legal action or future claims.

C. Following up on the current canonical proceedings

Commitment: To follow up on canonical proceedings in progress, according to the indications given by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith in each case, constituting the corresponding tribunals and ensuring the participation of external canonists as judges and assessors.

In the Fifth Annual Report, five ongoing canonical proceedings were reported. As of December 31, 2025, four of these cases have concluded and one remains open. In all cases, in accordance with current Church norms, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith intervenes. In two of the cases, the canonical procedures determined that the events reported did not occur, and the cases were closed. In one of these cases, the accused was found guilty of the charges against him. In another case, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith notified us that it lacked competence to proceed because the accused had already left the Congregation and the clerical state.

During 2025, five new canonical procedures were initiated, including formal preliminary investigations (can. 1717) and canonical processes (can. 1718).

At the close of this report (December 31, 2025), there are a total of six canonical procedures in progress. In all cases, until there is clarification on what occurred or a conclusion of the process, precautionary measures have been imposed restricting the public ministry of the accused, without prejudice to the presumption of innocence.

All known cases of accusations of abuse committed by priests are submitted to the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith once the preliminary investigation has concluded, to receive indications on the procedures to be followed in each case.[4]

More information about canonical processes can be found on the webpage www.0abuse.org.

D. Concealment or gross negligence by superiors

Commitment: The Congregation maintains its commitment to review cases and to prevent any type of negligence.

4 Vademecum, nos. 69 and 77.

During the period covered by this report, no new processes were initiated for possible concealment or gross negligence under the provisions of the motu proprio *Vos estis lux mundi* art. 1 §1 b) and the motu proprio *As a Loving Mother* art. 1. In this area, training has continued for major superiors and their collaborators, as well as for local superiors beginning their service of authority, so that they know what may constitute the crime of concealment or gross negligence and are familiar with the procedures should a situation of this nature arise.

According to current canonical norms, if a preliminary investigation for negligence or concealment does not find sufficient evidence, the ecclesiastical authority will issue a decree of dismissal (*non constat*), since it is not possible to reach moral certainty about the guilt of the accused due to insufficient, contradictory, or nonexistent evidence. This decree is not equivalent to a declaration of full innocence (*constat de non*), but it restores, at least temporarily, the good reputation of the accused, in accordance with the principle of the presumption of innocence. The dismissal is not definitive,[5] since the case may be reopened if new evidence or credible accusations arise. In all cases, the result of the preliminary investigation must be sent to the Holy See, which has the final word on whether the process should be closed, expanded, or referred to a formal penal process.

E. Safe environment accreditation

Commitment: To complete the processes of external accreditation or reaccreditation in compliance with safe environment standards that are underway in several territories.

As of December 31, 2025, the status of accreditation or reaccreditation of the various territories and delegations of the Congregation is as follows:

- North America: Reaccredited three times.
- North of Mexico: Accredited and in the process of reaccreditation.
- Mexico and Central America: Accredited and in the process of reaccreditation.
- Colombia–Venezuela: Accredited and in the process of reaccreditation.
- Chile–Argentina: Accredited and in the process of reaccreditation.
- Brazil: In the process of accreditation.
- Spain: Reaccredited once.

5 Cf. Vademecum, nos. 77 and 78.

• Western and Central Europe: Accredited.
• Italy: Accredited.
• Delegation of Rome: Accredited.
• Delegation of the Holy Land: Pending due to factors beyond the Congregation's control.

STATE OF ACCREDITATION IN THE TERRITORIES

DATA FOR THE YEAR 2025:

ACCREDITED TERRITORIES

- Chile-Argentina
- Colombia-Venezuela
- Mexico and Central America
- North of Mexico
- Central and Western Europe
- Italy
- Delegation of Rome

REACCREDITED TERRITORIES

- North America (three times)
- Spain (once)

TERRITORIES THAT HAVE BEGUN THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

- North of Mexico
- Mexico and Central America
- Colombia - Venezuela
- Chile - Argentina

TERRITORIES IN PROCESS OF ACCREDITATION

- Italy
- Brazil
- Delegation of the Holy Land (in process for reasons beyond the Congregation's control)

During 2025, the Territories of Western and Central Europe and Italy, and the Delegation of Rome, were accredited. In 2025, the Territories of Colombia-Venezuela and Chile-Argentina began their reaccreditation process, and the Territory of Brazil began its first accreditation process.

Some territories have found differences between certain requirements of some accrediting bodies and universal canonical norms. We reaffirm the value of both internal and external audits and accreditations as a guarantee of seriousness in this matter. These differences are a subject of study that we will address with the accrediting bodies themselves and with the Holy See, without this lessening our demand for external oversight.

F. Collaboration with external institutions and experts

Commitment: To expand collaboration with external institutions and experts and establish spaces for consultation and advice with survivors of sexual abuse for the continuous improvement of the Congregation's work in this field.

I. Collaboration with external institutions and experts

The Congregation has continued its ongoing process of evaluating and improving its processes of attention to victims. Through collaboration, exchange, and dialogue with external experts, and the ongoing training of safe environment coordinators, members of the Congregation, and those who collaborate in its works, prevention and response protocols have been strengthened.

At the close of this report, there are strategic alliances or collaborative projects of various kinds, focused mainly on formation, prevention, listening, and attention to victims, with:

Current collaborations: [6]

- Eshmá
- Praesidium
- Center for Continuing Education of Universidad Anáhuac México (Mexico)
- CEPROME (Mexico)
- Chrism Ministries (United States)
- Awake (United States)
- Emooti – Institute of Mental Health and Well-Being (Spain)
- Proyecto Repara (Spain)
- Center for Comprehensive Family Accompaniment (CAIF) of Universidad Francisco de Vitoria (Spain)
- Instituto Desarrollo y Persona of Universidad Francisco de Vitoria (Spain)
- CONFER Safe Environments Office (Spain)
- Universidad Finis Terrae* (Chile)
- Mission of accompaniment and prevention training in the Antilles (with CEPROME)*

6 Entries marked with an asterisk (*) were signed in 2025.

II. Training of territorial coordinators

Throughout 2025, territorial coordinators received specialized training to strengthen areas that directly affect the promotion and consolidation of safe environments. Topics related to attention to victims, holistic priestly well-being, and risk management were particularly reinforced. Work has focused on these core areas to provide a more comprehensive, preventive, and sustainable institutional response.

From September 15 to 19, 2025, the 8th Annual Safe Environments Meeting was held in Atlanta, United States of America, on the theme "Unity, Communion, and Commitment." The meeting focused on strengthening the network of coordinators and international leaders in order to continue consolidating an institutional culture of protection, prevention, and respect for human dignity. In addition to sharing experiences and analyzing cases, participants reviewed the achievements and lessons learned. Common challenges were addressed through talks and training workshops with specialized speakers. Among the main themes of the meeting were the implementation and possible improvement of institutional guidelines, such as the document *Protect and Heal*, the norms of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, restorative justice strategies, healing processes, and holistic accompaniment. Part of the meeting was held jointly with representatives of the Consecrated Women and Lay Consecrated Men of Regnum Christi, as well as of the common works, including schools and other apostolates.

In addition, training was offered throughout the year on topics such as: artificial intelligence applied to safe environments; attention to victims and keys to accompaniment; canon law, concepts, and processes; abuse of power and conscience; risk management and risk mapping; holistic priestly well-being; and communication and crisis management.

III. Training for members of the Congregation

The experience of these years has shown that holistic health—which includes the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual dimensions—and the protection and promotion of a culture of personal and community care contribute significantly to the prevention of abuse. For this reason, each territory has offered its priests and religious training through specialists and academic and pastoral institutions on topics such as:

- Emotional intelligence
- Awareness of boundaries: aspects of human formation for clergy and religious
- The impact of trauma and responding to reports of possible abuse

- Online safety and social media
- Guarding the gift: the virtue of prudence
- Loneliness, friendship, and fruitfulness in the priest
- Fatherhood from an educational, symbolic, and vocational perspective
- Fullness of masculine identity
- Prevention of abuse and exploitation in pastoral ministry
- Self-awareness and appropriate self-care interventions

G. Abuse of authority and conscience: toward a more evangelical way of life

Commitment for 2023: To address the issue of abuse of authority and conscience, as the 2020 General Chapter has indicated.[7]

The Chapter Decree of 2020 recognized with sadness the existence of abuses of power and conscience in the exercise of authority and in our apostolic activity, and asked the General Government to analyze this reality and to propose concrete measures for formation, prevention, and healing. Fulfilling this mandate has taken time because the nature of the problem required it: this is not a matter of a series of isolated cases, but of a thorough review of how authority has been understood and exercised throughout the history of the Congregation, of the cultural elements that may have fostered abuse, and of how authority should be lived from now on in the light of the Gospel.

In June 2023, the general director formally established a Study Commission made up of religious from different territories. The commission completed its work in October 2025, delivering to the general director the document *Authority and Obedience in the Legion of Christ: A Path of Evangelical Renewal*. Its preparation involved analyzing the theological and canonical framework of authority in religious life; studying how authority and obedience have been lived historically in the Congregation, with an explicit acknowledgment of their lights and shadows; and formulating recommendations in three areas: institutional actions, ongoing formation, and guiding principles. The document also includes a list of actions undertaken to "review the exercise of authority, which must be joined to truth, so as to respect conscience and be exercised in the light of the Gospel as genuine ecclesial service".[8]

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7 "The priestly ministry demands that we have the highest respect for the dignity and freedom of every person redeemed by Christ. Having recognized with sadness that here too there have been some abuses of power and conscience in the exercise of authority and in our apostolic activity, we ask the General Government to analyze this complex reality and to propose appropriate measures in view of pastoral formation, the prevention of any type of abuse and the healing of those affected." *General Chapter of the Legionaries of Christ 2020, You Will Be My Witnesses*, 21.

8 Communiqué of the Holy See on the Apostolic Visitation to the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ, May 1, 2010.

The document was presented to the General Chapter, held in January 2026, as input *ad usum privatum* for its deliberation and discernment.

We acknowledge the suffering of those who have experienced an inappropriate exercise of authority within the Congregation. This work is not a merely technical or institutional response, but a sincere effort to heal wounds, understand the factors that made them possible, and build a culture in which authority is exercised in a truly evangelical way: at the service of people, with respect for their conscience and dignity.

The findings and recommendations proposed by the commission are already being used in the training of new superiors, formators, and spiritual directors as a tool for preventing these abuses and for seeking a more evangelical exercise of both authority and religious obedience.

At the same time, proactive dialogue continues with the Holy See and other ecclesial bodies in order to keep walking together with the Church in the juridical definition of abuse of authority, power, and conscience, and to establish appropriate procedures to stop such abuse and to do justice when it occurs, in accordance with current canonical norms.

IV

Commitments to Fulfill (2020-2026)

IV. Commitments to Fulfill (2020-2026)

Throughout 2025, there was progress on several of the commitments established by the Congregation for the period 2020-2026. The Congregation is aware that there is still a long way to go in the search for truth, justice, and healing for victims. Therefore, we commit ourselves to continue on the path we have embarked upon, dedicating ourselves to the following commitments as a priority:

1. **Listening**. Respond with professionalism and empathy to any accusation according to established procedures and, always respecting the wishes of those affected, continue the effort to reach out to the victims who are known to us.
2. **Making reparation**. Follow up with and update the comprehensive reparation program and support for victims of sexual abuse of minors by members of the Congregation and, taking into account current legal provisions, extend the program to more countries where we have an institutional presence.
3. **Justice**. Follow up on canonical procedures in process according to the indications given by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith in each case, ensuring the participation of external canonists as judges and advisors, and safeguarding the good name of those involved, the presumption of innocence, and the right to a fair process.
4. **Transparency**. We reiterate our conviction that periodic external audits of the work carried out by the Safe Environments Area, as reflected in these reports, are necessary. The arrangements to work with an institution that could carry out the external audit announced in the Fifth Annual Report have not been completed, but the process remains active, and we continue to seek out and dialogue with other institutions that could carry out this important exercise.
5. **Prevention**. Continue the training of all members of the Congregation, in both initial and ongoing formation, as well as specific formation for superiors who are beginning their service of authority, so that abuse can be prevented and, should it occur, a professional and empathetic response can be given so that it is stopped and justice is done.

6. **Efficiency**. Continue the external accreditation or reaccreditation processes for compliance with safe environment standards, and offer the territories various options of accrediting institutions.
7. **Collaboration**. Expand collaboration with internal and external institutions and experts for the continuous improvement of the work carried out by the Congregation in this area.
8. **Evangelical exercise of authority and obedience**. Continue on the path undertaken for the prevention of abuse of authority and conscience, mainly through pastoral formation, prevention, and the healing of those affected.

A. Looking to the future

The government that concluded its service of authority in February 2026 presented to the General Chapter several proposals and recommendations for updating the chapter document *Protect and Heal*. These suggestions concern harmonizing the juridical text with the development of canon law over the past six years, in particular the publication of the new Book VI of the *Code of Canon Law*. They also seek to incorporate the lessons learned from applying this chapter text in the various territories over the six-year period.

Among the most notable recommendations for updating *Protect and Heal* are the following:

- Providing the territories with sufficient staff to offer timely, empathetic, and professional attention to anyone who comes forward to report a crime committed by a member of the Congregation.
- Improvements in canonical processes, in accordance with current Church norms, both in preliminary investigations and in any canonical processes that may be opened.
- Taking special care to safeguard the good name of all those involved in a process, to protect the presumption of innocence, and to provide pastoral attention both to victims and their families and to the accused and those close to him.

The Congregation will relate the most significant steps taken at the international level in fulfilling these commitments in the next Annual Report. The update of *Protect and Heal* has already been promulgated and communicated through official channels.

Appendix:
Detailed Timeline (2006-2025)

Appendix I Toward a Zero-Abuse Culture: A Detailed Timeline

To provide context and an update in continuity with previous reports on the steps taken through December 31, 2025, we present an extended timeline of the actions taken by the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ in the prevention and fight against abuse and in favor of victims.

Steps prior to 2025

2006 to 2014. Awareness and acceptance of the sexual abuse committed by the founder and other members of the Congregation and the need to care for the victims. Beginning to implement the Church's norms *(Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela)* and safe environment standards in some countries.

The intervention of the Holy See, the canonical visitation, and the appointment of a pontifical delegate helped the Congregation to become aware of the abuses committed by its founder, Father Maciel, and the aftermath they left behind in the Congregation. Codes of conduct and procedures began to be implemented in the United States and Ireland, countries where the problem began to be confronted with greater urgency and seriousness, following the guidelines set by the bishops' conferences. An initial study of the cases known at the time was made, and the results were published by the interim general director. [9]

2011-2013. Outreach Commission to the victims of Fr. Maciel.

The pontifical delegate, Cardinal Velasio De Paolis, instituted the "Outreach Commission," which attended to Fr. Maciel's victims who decided to come forward. This commission presented its results to the 2014 General Chapter.

2014. General Chapter: Petition for an apology to the victims and the acknowledgment of the grave acts of Fr. Maciel.

The General Chapter of 2014 recognized the serious behaviors of Fr. Marcial Maciel and asked forgiveness from the victims on behalf of the Congregation.[10] It also asked the superiors to:

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9 https://dirgen.legionariosdecristo.org/2239-2

10 https://legionariesofchrist.org/presentation-of-the-communiques-of-the-general-chapter/

- Continue seeking reconciliation with the victims of abuse;
- Implement institutional safe environment policies for minors and vulnerable persons;
- Accredit their safe environment procedures through specialized and independent institutions.

2014-2018. Development and implementation of international safe environment policies and their external audit.

The general director of the Congregation at the time, Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil, focused his attention and efforts on prevention and response to any complaint—sign, signal, information, etc.—by designing and implementing safe environment policies at the international level, which are to be audited in each country by independent and specialized institutions. In addition, some outreach was made to victims of members of the Congregation to start the processes of healing and reparation.

2019. Historical investigation of the cases that have occurred in the Congregation.

A commission was established to investigate the archives and any existing documentation, with the purpose of identifying all cases of abuse against minors that have occurred in the Congregation from its foundation to the present day, anywhere in the world. Its intention was to discover the reality of abuse in the Congregation with greater accuracy in order to initiate a real path of rapprochement, listening to and making amends with victims, ensuring legal sanctions—civil and ecclesiastical—for the guilty, and following through to an institutional cultural change. **2019 (December). Publication of the findings of the historical investigation: *Report 1941-2019.***

The *1941-2019 Report* on the phenomenon of sexual abuse against minors in the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ since its foundation was published. It was a key step, albeit with its limits, to put this painful reality into perspective, and it permitted:

- *A Historical Investigation.* Cases of abuse committed by priests of the Legionaries of Christ between 1941 and 2019 were collected.
- *Analysis of the phenomenon.* An analysis and diagnosis of the phenomenon of abuse against minors in the Congregation was carried out, identifying the specific context and the cultural reasons that, depending on the case, facilitated the abuse. It was found that in the past, the Congregation's response was often characterized by attitudes of institutional defensiveness rather than attention to the victims.

- *Centrality of the victim.* Victims could be asked for forgiveness more honestly, acknowledging the harm suffered, and strengthening our commitments and policies so that the victim is at the center of the pathways to healing.
- *Dissemination of information.* A public commitment was made to present the findings of the investigation to the General Chapter, the supreme governing body of the Congregation, in order to accept responsibility and take action at the global level.

2020 (January-February). Fourth Ordinary General Chapter of the Legionaries of Christ

The Fourth General Chapter of the Legionaries of Christ, the supreme governing body of the Congregation, which represents it in its entirety, was held.[11] The Chapter published two documents related to safe environments:[12]

- *Conversion and Reparation:* Accountability for the attention to victims and commitment to change. Addressed first of all to the victims of abuse and their families, it makes an explicit request for forgiveness to each victim and recognizes the denunciations made by the victims as a prophetic good. This document recognizes "with pain and shame" the shortcomings and errors that favored abuses and the inadequate way of dealing with these crimes. It mentions by name the first denouncers of Father Marcial Maciel, retracting the negative judgments that had been made against them and recognizing as prophetic their denunciations in favor of truth and justice. It recognizes as essential allies civil and ecclesiastical authorities, society, the media, and organizations specialized in the prevention of abuses and the restitution of justice.
- *Protect and Heal:* Strengthening the international policies of safe environments and information policies, and promoting institutional collaboration. It is a normative document that reinforces the principles and protocols of action for responding promptly, effectively, and pastorally to allegations of possible sexual abuse; establishes clear sanctions against impunity; requests that in ordinary proceedings the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith be asked for the dismissal from the clerical state and the expulsion from the Congregation of those who have committed multiple or repeated abuses; and promotes collaboration with other ecclesiastical and civil organizations. **2021 (March). First Annual Report: *Truth, Justice, and Healing.***

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11 Cf. *Code of Canon Law*, 631.
12 https://legionariesofchrist.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Conversion-and-Reparation.pdf

Accountability regarding attention to victims and the publication of cases. This First Annual Report includes, among others:

- Accountability: it accounts for the concrete actions taken since the 2020 General Chapter in the search for truth, justice, and healing for victims.
- Publication of each case in different modalities: it explains the reasons and modalities for the publication, at the territorial level, of the names and individual cases of the known Legionary priests who have committed abuses in the various countries.
- Independent channel for listening to and attending to victims: it presents the Congregation's collaboration with Eshmá, an institution of professionals dedicated to victims of abuse in the Catholic Church, which offers an external and independent channel to welcome and care for victims of members of the Congregation.
- Preparations for a program of financial reparation: it explains the steps taken towards financial reparations for victims and the progress made in the safe environment policy put in place since 2014.
- Publication of commitments and updating of data on www.0abuse.org.

2022 (March). Second Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing.*

Accountability regarding attention to victims. Program of financial reparation and support for victims: presentation of the international program developed after an international comparative study of other systems and parameters.

2023 (March). Third Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing.*

Accountability regarding attention to victims. Launch of the program of financial reparation and help for the victims. Formation, by mandate of the general director, of the Study Commission on the healthy exercise of authority in the Congregation, in response to the Chapter Decree 2020.

2024 (March). Fourth Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing.*

Accountability regarding the commitments undertaken for 2020-2026. Progress in the program of financial reparation. Addition of new territories to the safe environment accreditation process. Beginning of the work of the Study Commission on the exercise of authority and obedience.

2025 (April). Fifth Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing.*

Updated report on complaints received and the status of the processes. Findings of an investigation into gross negligence. Information on the training of territorial safe environment teams in the handling of complaints, canon law, and priestly well-being as a preventive measure. Progress of the Study Commission on the healthy exercise of authority.

2026 (November). Sixth Annual Report *Truth, Justice, and Healing.*

Accountability regarding the commitments undertaken for the period 2020-2026. Updated report on complaints received and the status of the canonical processes in progress. New financial reparation agreements and expansion of the territories with safe environment accreditation. Completion and presentation to the ordinary General Chapter of the document *Authority and Obedience in the Legion of Christ: A Path of Evangelical Renewal*, prepared by the Study Commission on the exercise of authority and obedience. Close of the 2020-2026 government cycle and continuity of the commitments under the new government elected by the 2026 General Chapter.

Contact Information



Institutional channels for complaints:
www.legionariesofchrist.org/safe-environment/



Independent channel for attention to victims (Eshmá):
https://www.eshma.eus



Email:
welisten@eshma.eus



Phone:
(678) 467-9348



To Submit Feedback about the Sixth Annual Report:
Ceroabusos@legionaries.org



Press office:
https://legionariesofchrist.org/press-room/
krivard@legionofchrist.org



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