

## Letter to the Diocese of California from Bishop Marc Andrus

Dear friends in Christ,

This past summer, at our General Convention in Austin, Texas, the Episcopal Church took some historic and much-needed steps in addressing past abuses by clergy toward lay persons and toward other clergy in the Church. For far too long there has been too much silence, and often misdirection, when people were brave enough to bring such allegations forward. I am writing this letter, and asking that it be read in every congregation on Sunday January 20th and/or January 27th, in order to make you aware of the implementation of one specific resolution from General Convention, namely, [D034](#), which called for the lifting of the statutes of limitations as spelled out in Title IV.19.4 of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church specifically as it relates to sexual misconduct of clergy. That three year period of suspension began on January 1, 2019 and will run until December 31, 2021.

While the canon in question, and [all the wording of D034](#), is attached to this letter and available on our diocesan website and in hard copy for anyone who wishes to have it in that form, the basic result of this suspension is that any allegation against a cleric in this Church for acts of sexual misconduct may be brought forward in this three year window, regardless of any prior invoking of a statute of limitations. In short, you do not have to wonder if the allegation comes from too long ago.

In our diocese, the Intake Officers for such allegations are the Rev. Canon Abbott Bailey and the Rev. Eric Metoyer. They can be reached by emailing them at [abbottb@diocal.org](mailto:abbottb@diocal.org) and/or [ericm@diocal.org](mailto:ericm@diocal.org). They can also be contacted directly by phone by calling the diocesan office. If, for any reason you do not feel comfortable reporting this to either of them, you may also report to your local cleric, any diocesan staff member, and finally the bishop himself. Keeping your confidentiality, especially in the early phases of any allegation and investigation, is our duty.

I am in complete support of this measure, voted for it at General Convention, and believe the steps being taken currently to publicize the information widely are important and necessary. To that end, I am also attaching the letter on this topic addressed to the Church from the President of the House of Deputies, Gay Clark Jennings, and our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry. I urge you to read that too. (*Letter included below*)

There is yet much more work to do on this topic. Our diocesan convention passed a resolution at our most recent convention which calls for the creation of a Task Force on

Sexual Harassment in our diocese. I invite anyone in the diocese, clergy or lay, to also offer your input on the creation of this committee.

I want to summarize that this resolution, as well as our diocesan policy, has as its goal to break down every possible barrier to reporting an allegation of sexual misconduct in this church. As President Jennings and Presiding Bishop Curry said so well in the end of their letter, I will end this one. May this resolution and other steps help “our church move closer to the day when, having repented of our sins and amended our common life, we may be restored in love, grace and trust with each other through our Savior Jesus Christ.”

Please pray for all those affected by misconduct, and pray for our Church.

In faith,

The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus  
Bishop of California