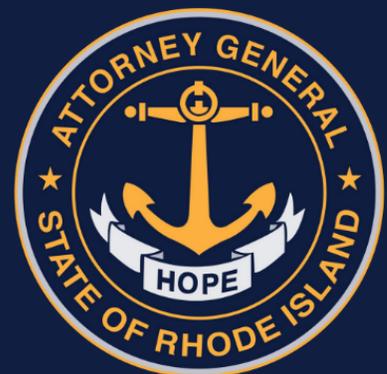


Appendix B

Glossary



Appendix B

Glossary of Terms¹

Term	Definition
Acta	The Church’s official record of information and evidence relating to alleged violations of canon law, including alleged sexual abuse of a minor by a member of the clergy. Based on this Investigation, when the Bishop in the Diocese of Providence has taken the step of referring a clergy abuse complaint to the Vatican, his referral has typically included both the <i>Acta</i> and the <i>Votum</i> (defined below).
Advisory Board for the Protection of Children and Young People / Review Board	A consultative body to the Bishop in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse of minors and determination of a cleric's suitability for ministry, comprised primarily of lay persons not in the employ of the Diocese.
Altar Server	An individual, typically a minor, who assists priests at the altar during Mass and other liturgical ceremonies.
Archbishop	The title given to bishops who govern archdioceses. It is also bestowed upon certain high-ranking Church officials, such as Vatican ambassadors, secretaries of Vatican congregations, and presidents of pontifical councils. There are 31 archbishops in the United States.
Archdiocese	The area under the archbishop’s jurisdiction and authority. The Providence Diocese belongs to the ecclesiastical province of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut.
Assistant Pastor	A priest who assists the Senior Pastor in a church or parish with various needs and ministerial duties as they arise.
Auxiliary Bishop	A priest appointed to assist the bishop of a diocese or archdiocese. They exercise their authority with the permission of the local Ordinary.

¹ These definitions derive from the USCCB Glossary of Catholic Terms, the Vatican’s Glossary of Terms, other publicly available sources, and additional information learned during this Investigation.

Bishop	A priest who is appointed by the Pope to be the leader of a diocese.
Brother	A man who is not ordained as a priest but has taken vows in a religious order. He is often referred to as a lay brother to distinguish him from those who are ordained to perform sacramental duties, such as priests and deacons.
Cardinal	A senior member of the Catholic Church who is appointed by the Pope and is the highest ranked clergy member below the Pope.
Chancellor	An administrative official responsible for maintaining and safeguarding a diocese's official records and who serves as a notary and secretary of the diocesan curia (central administration).
Chancery	The administrative office of a diocese, overseen by the local bishop, that handles official documents and records related to the diocese's religious and organizational matters.
Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People / Dallas Charter	A policy statement created by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in 2002 to express American bishops' commitment to respond to allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy.
Clergy	All individuals who have been ordained in the Catholic Church, including bishops, priests, and deacons. They are responsible for performing the Church's religious rites and sacraments.
Clerical State	The status of individuals who have received holy orders in the Catholic Church, i.e., priests and deacons.
Code of Canon Law	The set of regulations established by the Catholic Church to govern its members and institutions. It encompasses various areas, including Church doctrine, governance, the sacraments, and the rights and responsibilities of both clergy and laity. Canon law serves as the legal foundation for the Church's operations and discipline.
Confession/Sacrament of Reconciliation	A Catholic sacrament in which sins committed after baptism are forgiven. The individual, or penitent, privately expresses remorse and confesses their sins to a

	priest, and through the absolution given by the priest, the person is forgiven and reconciled with God and the Church.
Consistory	A group of lay and religious experts convened in the 1990s to advise the Bishop in his response to allegations of child sexual abuse by Diocesan clergy. The group met only a handful of times during its existence.
Deacon	A man ordained to assist priests in various Church duties, including preaching, baptizing, performing marriages, and helping with parish administration. He also plays a role in liturgical matters, such as leading prayers, reading scripture, and supporting other ceremonial aspects of worship.
Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF)	The Vatican body responsible for maintaining doctrinal correctness and overseeing priest discipline within the Catholic Church, including for allegations of child sexual abuse. Until 2022, it was called the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF).
Diocese	A defined geographic area within the Church, led by a bishop, which serves as the basic organizational unit for managing and guiding Church activities and communities. The Diocese of Providence covers the State of Rhode Island.
Dismissal from the Clerical State	A permanent penalty imposed in response to the commission of an ecclesiastical crime. When a priest or deacon is removed from the clerical state, he loses the right to perform sacred duties in the Church, except in cases of imminent danger of death, and no longer has the right to receive financial support from the Church. This is sometimes referred to as laicization, though laicization can also be voluntary.
Essential Norms	A set of Catholic Church rules first promulgated by the USCCB in 2002 to enforce procedures set forth in the <i>Dallas Charter</i> for investigating and disciplining allegations of child sexual abuse by members of the clergy. Subsequently granted formal approval (or recognition) by the Vatican in December 2002, rendering the <i>Essential Norms</i> binding canon law on all U.S. dioceses.

Extern Priest	A priest who lives and works outside the jurisdiction of the diocese or religious community in which he is incardinated.
External Forum	The sphere of the Catholic Church's jurisdiction pertaining to matters of public concern.
Faculties	The official authorization granted by the Church or a Church authority that allows clergy to perform certain duties, like administering sacraments or preaching.
Holy Orders	A sacrament of the Church through which men are ordained as bishops, priests, or deacons, and receive the power to perform sacred duties.
Internal Forum	The private realm of moral judgment and conscience that affects the spiritual welfare of an individual, in contrast to those matters falling under the External Forum. A distinction is often drawn between "sacramental" and "non-sacramental" internal forum. The former concerns matters discussed during the sacrament of Penance that are absolutely protected by the Seal of Confession. The latter involves a broader range of non-penitential matters discussed between a priest and an individual that are also of "spiritual concern" such that, according to the Church, they also warrant protection. Historically, the Diocese of Providence has asserted that such discussions between a priest and a parishioner, or between the Bishop and one of his priests, occurring <i>outside</i> of a confessional—even those relating to allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor—may be protected from public disclosure under the concept of the "internal forum."
Laicization	The process of removing a priest from the clerical state at his request. Once laicized, a priest can no longer perform priestly duties, except in emergencies where someone is at risk of death. The Pope must approve all laicization requests.
Lay State	Refers to baptized members of the Church who are not ordained as clergy or living a religious life in a consecrated religious order.
Life of Prayer and Penance	A penalty, often imposed on elderly or infirm priests, where the offender is not dismissed from the clerical state but is not permitted to celebrate Mass publicly,

	administer the sacraments, wear clerical garb, or present himself publicly as a priest.
Minister for Priests/ Vicar for Priests	Represents the bishop in caring for priests, focusing on their emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being.
Moderator of the Curia	The person responsible for overseeing the administrative affairs of a diocese, ensuring that its departments and agencies operate effectively and fulfill their roles.
Monsignor	An honorary title awarded by the Pope to certain diocesan priests in recognition of their service.
Office of Compliance (OEC)	The office of the Diocese of Providence responsible for investigating complaints of misconduct committed by Diocesan personnel, including child sexual abuse. Formerly known as the Office of Education and Compliance.
Office of Outreach and Prevention (OOP) / Victim Assistance Coordinator	The office of the Diocese of Providence responsible for coordinating pastoral care and counseling support for victims or survivors of child sexual abuse and for coordinating training for Diocesan personnel on awareness, prevention and reporting of child sexual abuse.
Ordinary	A diocesan bishop; the authority and jurisdiction the bishop has over the diocese.
Ordination	The ceremony in which a person is consecrated and officially becomes a deacon or priest through a special liturgical rite.
Parish	A specific community of Catholic faithful within a diocese, with its own church and under the leadership of a pastor, who is responsible for providing spiritual and pastoral care to members. There are 119 parishes in Rhode Island.
Pastor	A priest responsible for leading a Catholic parish, overseeing sacramental duties, and offering pastoral care and support to parishioners.
Pastor Emeritus	A title given to a retired pastor who, while no longer actively serving in a pastoral role, may still be involved in the life of the parish in a limited capacity.

Priest	A member of the clergy who can either belong to a religious order and live according to its rules, or serve in a diocese under the authority of a local bishop. Religious order priests are subject to both their order's superiors and the local bishop, while diocesan priests typically serve in parishes but may also be assigned to other diocesan roles or work outside the diocese.
The Providence Visitor/Rhode Island Catholic	The Diocese of Providence newspaper, providing news and updates for the local Catholic community.
Rectory	The residence where a priest lives, typically located on the grounds of a parish or church.
Religious Order/Religious	A community of men or women who commit to living according to a specific set of rules and vows. Members of these orders dedicate their lives to spiritual growth, prayer, and service to others, and may be ordained or lay persons.
Secret Archive	A collection of confidential documents within each diocese, containing records pertaining to, <i>inter alia</i> , clergy sexual misconduct.
Seminary	A school focused on providing academic education, spiritual formation, and practical training for individuals preparing for the priesthood.
Supply Ministry/Supply Priest	A role where a priest temporarily fills in or substitutes for another priest who is absent or not assigned to a particular parish.
Tuesday Group (Conclave)	A group of Diocese of Providence insiders that met weekly in the 1990s to discuss allegations of clergy misconduct and the Diocese's response thereto. The group was comprised of those who had a "need to know," including the Vicar of Social Ministry, the Minister for Priests, the Diocese's lawyer, its Director of Communications, and the OEC Director.
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)	An assembly of the hierarchy of Catholic bishops in the United States who collaborate to support the ministry of bishops.
Vicar General	The highest official of a diocese after the bishop who is authorized to carry out the bishop's administrative and

	judicial duties and to act in the bishop's name and authority.
Votum	An authoritative opinion of a bishop or religious superior in a case referred to the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.