

Statement from Cardinal Maida

“Today at the Vatican, Bishop Wilton Gregory, the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, announced the establishment of a Mixed Commission to engage in further reflection on and revision of the *Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests, Deacons or other Church Personnel*, as well as the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, adopted by the U.S. Bishops Conference at their semi-annual meeting in Dallas.

“The Holy See has supported the work of the bishops of the United States in the development of these documents, and at the same time, identified certain areas where there is need for further discussion and precision to insure the plan will be in conformity with universal church law. A Mixed Commission of four Vatican officials and four bishops appointed by Bishop Gregory will be established to work out the areas of concern.

“The Holy See is fully supportive of the efforts of the United States bishops to respond firmly to the sexual misdeeds of a very small number of priests. Our Holy Father has said: ‘There is no place in the priesthood or religious life for those who would harm the young.’

“I welcome the decision of the Holy See and the announcement of Bishop Gregory. I look forward to seeing the recommendations that may be proposed by the Mixed Commission. We will all benefit from these refinements and the greater clarity that may be brought about through this dialogue.

“In the midst of this discussion of procedures, here in the Archdiocese we will not lose sight of the commitment and resolve of the bishops of the United States, of the Holy Father, and my own personal resolve to provide for the safety and protection of children and young people.”

**Cardinal Adam Maida
Archbishop of Detroit
October 18, 2002**