

Pittsburgh Diocese Timeline

March/25, 1988	Diocese of Pittsburgh installs Bishop Wuerl as Bishop.
September 1988	Bishop Wuerl meets with family of victims of Father Richard Zula. That meeting persuades Bishop Wuerl that reassigning pedophile priests is not acceptable, and that priests facing substantiated allegations of child abuse must be withdrawn from ministry.
October 1988	The Diocese holds a mandatory meeting for all diocesan priests to advise them of the Diocese's Policy on Clergy Sexual Misconduct.
10/28/1988	First Diocesan Review Board on child protection issues in the U.S. founded by Bishop Wuerl to evaluate allegations, make recommendations, and provide advice on offering healing and assistance to survivors. (<i>USCCB doesn't form one until 2004</i>)
November 1988	Bishop Wuerl removes Father Anthony Cipolla from ministry after credible claim is made and legal proceedings begin by the victim. Local DA decides not to charge, but Bishop Wuerl refuses to return Cipolla to ministry.
1989	Bishop Wuerl travels to Rome and successfully defends his decision to remove Cipolla, eventually winning reversal of Vatican decision to restore him to ministry (1995).
6/30/89	Bishop Wuerl writes Holy See informing it that he has opened a full review of <i>all</i> past claims of priests accused of child sex abuse.
March 1993	Diocese of Pittsburgh hires a Diocesan Assistance Coordinator to provide services to survivors.
7/1/1995	Pennsylvania amends the Child Protective Services Law – clergy included as mandated reporters.
4/2002	Diocesan officials meet with District Attorneys from several counties in Southwest Pennsylvania to discuss the handling of allegations of abuse and the treatment of survivors.
6/2002	Bishop Wuerl is a leader in the floor debate at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in Dallas pressing for a strong, nationwide policy prohibiting a credibly accused individual from returning to ministry. The USCCB approves of and adopts the <i>Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (Charter)</i> .
10/2002	Diocese revises its Policy on Clergy Sexual Misconduct to require that all allegations of sexual abuse of minors be turned over to authorities.

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- 10/2002 The USCCB names Bishop Wuerl to a five-member committee charged with preparing a document, *Statement of Episcopal Commitment*, ensuring that all bishops in the United States apply the *Charter* and are accountable for protecting minors.
- 5/21/2003 Pittsburgh Diocese adopts a policy for the handling of allegations of sexual abuse of minors by non-clergy, requiring all allegations of sexual abuse against minors be reported to authorities.
- 2003 Independent auditors perform an on-site audit to ensure the Diocese's compliance with the *Charter*. These audits were conducted annually.
- 8/2003 Diocese adopts a Code of Pastoral Conduct, setting expectations for all religious and lay members of the Diocese and specifically addressing interactions with minors.
- 7/1/2004 Diocese adopts a Safe Environments for Children policy to prevent abuse. It requires all employees, clergy, and volunteers to undergo background checks and child protection training.
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- 6/22/2006 Archdiocese of Washington installs Bishop Wuerl as Archbishop of Washington.