



NEWS RELEASE

DIOCESE OF ERIE

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The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, bishop of Erie, offers the following statement regarding the release of Pope Francis' Motu Proprio this morning.

"I am pleased that Pope Francis has issued this important Motu Proprio, *Vos estis lux mundi* ("You are the light of the world" citing Matthew 5:14). This worldwide directive is a direct and concrete step taken as a result of the meeting held in Rome this past February that was attended by all of the presidents of episcopal conferences across the world. I welcome these new norms which call us to an ever greater accountability in the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

As the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, says, 'For the church in the United States, the task before us now is to establish whatever is necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the document. Our committees have already begun the work of preparing implementation measures for deliberation at the USCCB Plenary Assembly in June.'

I will be attending the meeting in June.

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The new law will take effect June 1, 2019. We will then enter a three-year period during which we will be able to make recommendations and offer refinements and improvements as it is implemented.

I am grateful for this significant step forward.”

Cardinal DiNardo’s full statement, as well as a document with questions and answers regarding it, can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/news/2019/19-087.cfm>

The Motu Proprio is available at http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190507_vos-estis-lux-mundi.html

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