



DIocese OF CHARLOTTE
Communications Office

NOVEMBER 19, 2020

National vendor's data breach includes additional Diocese of Charlotte information

CHARLOTTE — Based on new information from our third-party vendor Blackbaud Inc., the Diocese of Charlotte wants to make you aware that information about additional constituents of the diocese was exposed in a security breach experienced by Blackbaud in May 2020.

Blackbaud is an international provider of fundraising and financial software for education, charitable and nonprofit organizations, many of which were affected by the company's security breach. Blackbaud hosts a variety of databases for the diocese.

We previously reported that limited personal information about donors to some of our programs had been exposed in Blackbaud's breach. Details are outlined in our [Aug. 28 letter](#). After further investigation, Blackbaud recently informed us that information associated with additional constituents of the diocese also was exposed in the cyberattack, including that of some employees, vendors, parents and students, school alumni and supporters.

In most cases, the data exposed did not involve sensitive financial information. However, information involving current and former employees and vendors contained in a database the diocese stopped using by 2005 did include sensitive details such as Social Security Numbers, Tax Identification Numbers or bank account information. Those individuals affected have been contacted directly by the diocese with information about the breach as well as credit monitoring and fraud assistance services being offered to them by Blackbaud.

We have no reason to believe that information exposed involving the diocese and our constituents was misused or made available publicly, but we encourage you to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity or suspected identity theft to law enforcement.

Who was affected?

Based on Blackbaud's initial notification, the diocese reported Aug. 28 that the limited personal information exposed in the data breach involved donors. Blackbaud subsequently informed us on Sept. 29 that several "legacy" databases no longer in use by the diocese had not been deleted or encrypted by Blackbaud, and also were exposed in the breach.

In addition to the details outlined above, Blackbaud reports the following data also was exposed:

- Information in a 2019 database of families enrolled in Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools. Dating back to 2008, the information included parents' names, addresses, contact information, students' names and birthdates, and tuition details.
- Information in a 2016 database of alumni and donors to Charlotte Catholic High School. Dating back to 2002, the information included names, addresses, contact information, graduation dates and donor history.

The diocese has notified all of those affected through letters, email or school newsletters, or through the Catholic News Herald and here on our website.

We are continuing to work with outside experts to evaluate Blackbaud's data breach and the additional precautions the company is taking to prevent incidents in the future. We are committed to the privacy and security of our constituents' information, and will continue to update you if new information becomes available. To learn more about the breach, please see [Blackbaud's explanation](#) on its website. If you have additional questions, please call the diocese at 704-370-3409.

About the Diocese of Charlotte

The Diocese of Charlotte encompasses 92 parishes and missions in the 46 counties of western North Carolina, with an estimated Catholic population of more than 400,000. The diocesan website is www.charlottediocese.org.

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