

# 2015

# ANNUAL REPORT

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



SECRETARIAT  
OF CHILD  
AND YOUTH  
PROTECTION

NATIONAL  
REVIEW BOARD

UNITED STATES  
CONFERENCE OF  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

MAY 2016

Report on the Implementation of the

CHARTER FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF  
CHILDREN AND  
YOUNG PEOPLE

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*Report on the Implementation of the  
Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Washington, DC

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AND YOUTH PROTECTION

NATIONAL REVIEW BOARD

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OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS



The *2015 Annual Report on the Implementation of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People”* was prepared by the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection for the National Review Board and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). It was authorized by the USCCB President, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz. It has been directed for publication by the undersigned.

Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield  
General Secretary, USCCB

The findings and recommendations in this *2015 Annual Report on the Implementation of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People”* are based on the information provided by the dioceses and eparchies.

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## Office of the President

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# Preface

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz  
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

May God bless you! I am pleased to present this thirteenth annual report on the progress of implementing the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. I extend a sincere thank you to those countless, dedicated persons who work tirelessly to create safe environments in our parishes and schools.

Pope Francis, in his recent pastoral visit to the United States, gave a very clear example of how the response of the Church to victims and survivors of clergy sexual abuse must embody the love of Christ and so always be pastoral and caring. We are grateful for the many examples of such pastoral care and the commitment of so many that it represents. At the same time, the resolution to reach out to those who are still in pain is to be renewed daily.

When the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* in 2002 we made a pledge to heal and a promise to protect. These promises remain essential priorities for our Church. We remain ever vigilant in the protection of children and the outreach to those most harmed by sexual abuse. The Church cannot become complacent with what has been accomplished. We look for new ways of addressing the issue and showing others a model of protection. Our promise to protect and heal made in 2002 must remain strong.



## National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-5413 • FAX 202-541-5410

June 2, 2016

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, DD  
President  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the National Review Board, in collaboration with the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, I am pleased to provide you the Annual Report summarizing the results of the compliance audit for 2015. The audit remains the single most important means of ensuring that the *Charter* is being implemented. Through this instrument bishops are held accountable in complying with the requirements spelled out in the articles of the *Charter*, an important indicator of the seriousness with which the bishops take their responsibility in creating a safe environment for children. By demonstrating their commitment to the *Charter* and its implementation, the credibility of the bishops is strengthened, thereby contributing to a restoration of trust between the faithful and the bishops.

The overwhelming majority of the bishops in the United States continue to effectively implement the *Charter* and comply with the audit process. Unfortunately, we are not yet in a position to state that every diocese/eparchy in the United States is in compliance with the *Charter* or to confirm that the articles ensuring the safety of children and young people are being implemented in every diocese. In this year's audit, two dioceses and four eparchies did not participate in the audit and consequently, due to a lack of information, cannot be found compliant or noncompliant by the auditors. They are

- Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska
- Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle
- Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark for Syrians
- Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg for Armenians
- Eparchy of Stamford for Ukrainians
- Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter

We are pleased to know that the Diocese of Lincoln and the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter intend to participate in next year's audit. While the Ordinariate did not participate in the 2015 audit due to its entirely new ecclesiastical structure in the United States, it will participate in 2016 as originally envisioned and agreed upon with Stonebridge Business Partners.

To date, all but one of the eparchies have requested to be added to the schedule for an audit in 2016. This is a hopeful sign that we will indeed attain the goal of 100% participation in the audit, which will serve to enhance the credibility of the bishops, but more importantly, achieve the important goal of protecting our children. It is imperative that every diocese/eparchy participate in the audit if the faithful are to have confidence that the bishops are indeed committed to not only rectifying the terrible crime and sin of sexual abuse of children perpetrated in the past, but doing everything in their means possible to prevent such abuse from happening again.

This year's audit results continue to demonstrate the progress that has been made in ensuring safe environments for children in the Church. The bishops need to be acknowledged for keeping the protection of children and young people in the forefront of their leadership by continually enhancing their efforts to comply with the *Charter*. The audit reveals a rise in the number of dioceses who have included parish audits as part of their assessment of the implementation of the *Charter*. The National Review Board applauds those bishops who have incorporated this into their audit or as preparation for their audit, since it is on the parish level where it can be truly determined whether the policies and procedures of the diocese that comply with the *Charter* are truly being implemented. There also continues

to be a strong commitment to the victims of sexual abuse on the part of the bishops as they offer outreach and foster reconciliation with the survivors. Bishops remain diligent in removing clergy from ministry when a credible allegation has been brought forward. These are just a few of the examples from this year's audit that illustrate the commitment of the bishops.

The progress the Church has made through the efforts of the bishops can, however, foster a false sense of security and lead to complacency. Such complacency can lead to a minimalist approach to the *Charter*, which can be seen simply as a series of requirements that need to be checked-off, as opposed to an implementation that renders the *Charter* fully operative. This was evident in the fact that while every diocese has a diocesan review board, thereby complying with the *Charter's* requirement, in some cases the diocesan review board rarely meets or had not met in several years. Similarly, in some dioceses background checks are done once with no follow-up rescreening after several years have passed. While all of the dioceses audited have policies in place, in some instances those policies have not been updated to reflect revisions that have been made to the *Charter*. These are examples of how easy it is to become complacent, which opens the possibility for problems to occur that could have been prevented.

That the bishops need to guard against such complacency is evident in the fact that in this year's audit there were 26 reported allegations of sexual abuse of current minors by clergy. By the end of the audit cycle, seven of these allegations were substantiated. Boundary violations also increased according to this year's audit. If bishops become complacent, these violations can potentially evolve into a case of sexual abuse. The bishops must each day re-commit themselves to maintaining a level of vigilance that will prevent complacency and the resultant drifting away from a careful implementation of the Charter.

I would call your attention to the recommendations and best practices that are highlighted in this report. These suggestions, while not effecting compliance with the Charter, are based on what the auditors observed in the different dioceses that they visited, which could prove helpful to bishops when they are confronted with a particular issue related to implementation of the Charter.

The problem of sexual abuse of children and minors is not unique to the Catholic Church, as it permeates institutions and families in our society. The audit continues to provide evidence that the Catholic Church offers, through the bishops, a model of leadership for addressing this societal problem. By remaining vigilant and acting with courage, determination, and boldness the bishops are not only creating a safe environment for children and young people within the Church, but also pointing the way for other institutions to do the same, thereby impacting society at large. The National Review Board encourages the bishops to continue their leadership on this issue. We applaud the efforts of the bishops, and in particular, your own commitment and leadership through your support of the Charter, the audit, and the efforts of the NRB. We remain committed to assisting, advising, and collaborating with the bishops in addressing this issue and restoring credibility and trust with the faithful, so that no parent has to fear for the safety of their children within the Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Francesco C. Cesareo*

Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D.  
Chairman



## Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection

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March 1, 2016

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, DD  
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dr. Francesco Cesareo  
Chairman, National Review Board

Your Excellency and Dr. Cesareo,

Since 2003, dioceses and eparchies have participated in an independent annual audit of the national *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. I am pleased to offer the results of the 2015 audit as documented in the *2015 Annual Report on the Implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

Although one diocese and five eparchies did not participate in this current audit cycle, ongoing efforts continue in working toward full participation in next year's audit. I am pleased to share that next year all dioceses and a majority of the eparchies will be involved in either a data collection or an on-site audit for our 2016 evaluation. Every diocese/eparchy in the United States has the following:

- Information for victims/survivors to file an allegation or receive assistance
- A Victim Assistance Coordinator (VAC)
- A Safe Environment Coordinator (SEC)
- A Diocesan Review Board
- Diocesan programs that provide safe environment education for clergy, employees, volunteers, and children. These programs teach about child abuse/child sexual abuse, information regarding perpetrators, and the ways to maintain a safe environment.
- Diocesan requirements for a background check for anyone who wishes to work with children or those who habitually lack the use of reason

In our continual efforts to bring this darkness of abuse into the light, we remain grateful to victims/survivors who have reported their abuse to law enforcement and to the Church. Allegations continue to be reported; for this courage we are grateful. In 2013, there were forty-three allegations made by current minors. Seven were substantiated. The 2014 report cites thirty-seven allegations made by current minors, with six being substantiated. This 2015 report cites twenty-six allegations of which seven were substantiated. While the number of allegations continues to decline, one instance of abuse is one too many. The Church must remain committed to its "Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal."

I am most grateful for the collaboration and efforts of the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, the National Review Board, and the various secretariats of the USCCB with whom we interact on a daily basis. May our Lord continue to heal all who have been victimized by this crime and may our efforts towards healing, reconciliation, and peace be blessed.

Sincerely in Christ,

Deacon Bernie Nojadera  
Executive Director

January 29, 2016

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, DD  
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dr. Francesco Cesareo  
Chairman, National Review Board

Archbishop Kurtz and Dr. Cesareo,

Each audit year, we strive to ensure that dioceses/eparchies continue to improve upon their programs, policies and procedures, and resist becoming complacent. This past year was no exception. During the 2015 audit year, we visited 70 dioceses/eparchies and reviewed documentation submitted by 120 others.

In an ongoing effort to assist diocese/eparchies to adequately prepare for the audits, we hosted three webinar/workshops in Washington, DC, in the spring in which safe environment coordinators, victim assistance and other diocesan/eparchial representatives were invited to attend in person or online. The strong attendance and participation by everyone helps make this process a collaborative effort, in which everyone benefits.

We look forward to continuing our efforts in the upcoming audit year. It's with great pleasure that we can observe a difference being made and to view firsthand all of the hard work and dedication by diocesan/eparchial personnel in implementing and administering these programs and safeguards.

We appreciate your support and the confidence you have placed in us in assisting in this worthy cause.

The annual report that follows is a culmination of our efforts this past year in auditing dioceses and eparchies around the United States.

Sincerely,



James I. Marasco, Partner  
StoneBridge Business Partners





## Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

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January 2016

Most Reverend Joseph Kurtz, President  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dr. Francesco Cesareo, Chair  
National Review Board

Dear Archbishop Kurtz and Dr. Cesareo,

In November 2004, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to design and conduct an annual survey of all dioceses and eparchies whose bishops and eparchs are members of the USCCB. The purpose of this survey is to collect information on new allegations of sexual abuse of minors and the clergy against whom these allegations were made. The survey also gathers information on the amount of money dioceses and eparchies have expended as a result of allegations as well as the amount they have paid for child protection efforts. The national level aggregate results from this survey for each calendar year are reported in the *Annual Report of the Implementation of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."*

The questionnaire for the *2015 Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs* was designed by CARA in consultation with the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and was only slightly different from the versions used for the 2004 through 2014 *Annual Surveys*. As in previous years, CARA prepared an online version of the survey and provided bishops and eparchs with information about the process for completing it for their diocese or eparchy. In collaboration with the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, major superiors of religious institutes – including brother-only institutes – were also invited to complete a similar survey for their congregations, provinces, or monasteries.

Data collection for 2015 took place between September 2015 and November 2015. CARA received responses from all 196 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB and 182 of the 236 member religious institutes of CMSM, for response rates of 100 percent and 77 percent, respectively. CARA then prepared the national level summary tables and graphs of the findings for 2015, which are presented in this *Annual Report*.

We are grateful for the cooperation of the bishops, eparchs, and major superiors and their representatives in completing the survey for 2015.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

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*PLACING SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AT THE SERVICE OF THE CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1964*

# SECTION I

2015



# CHAPTER ONE

## SECRETARIAT OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION 2015 PROGRESS REPORT

**A**s expected, the result of thirteen years of implementing the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* shows the continued and steady movement toward consistency and reliability. Dioceses and eparchies are aware of, and are following, the requirements set forth by the *Charter*. The audit on the implementation of the *Charter* found that between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, 189 dioceses and eparchies were compliant with the *Charter*. One diocese was found non-compliant with respect to Articles 12 and 13, and one diocese and five eparchies did not participate.

### PROGRESS

The *Charter*, on which the audit is based, lays the foundation for child protection in our dioceses, parishes, and schools as it outlines a multi-faceted approach to how the Church responds to child sexual abuse. Primarily, the Church must care for those harmed by sexual abuse. Article 1 makes this clear. This year 838 people came forward to report abuse they suffered as children. Close to 200 new victims/survivors and members of their families were offered outreach and healing, and continued support was provided to 1,646 victims/survivors and their families who reported abuse in prior audit periods. Those abused by clergy should no longer need attorneys in order to be heard and receive pastoral care. All dioceses/eparchies audited have the individuals available to hear those who have been harmed by clergy or diocesan staff/personnel, treat them with respect, and offer them pastoral care. We join Pope

Francis and repeat, “Words cannot fully express my sorrow for the abuse you suffered” (Meeting with Victims of Sexual Abuse, September 27, 2015).

The second responsibility of the Church is to deal consistently and effectively with complaints of abuse no matter when the abuse is said to have occurred. All dioceses and eparchies that received an allegation of sexual abuse reported them to the appropriate civil authorities. Included in that number are twenty-six allegations from minors. Of those, seven were substantiated, nine were still under investigation, nine were unsubstantiated or unable to be proven, and four were deemed to be behavior not rising to the level of abuse but categorized as “boundary violations.” Through diocesan safe environment efforts, children are taught to recognize abuse and how to tell a trusted adult if they are hurt or made uncomfortable. This has resulted in many reports of boundary violations. We are happy to see children use what they have learned to help keep themselves and others safe. This increase in reporting puts all those with the intention of harming children on alert. An offender’s grooming behavior will be noticed, reported, and taken seriously.

The third way the *Charter* directs diocesan activity is to require the creation of safe environments in our parishes and dioceses thereby making it harder for abuse to occur. The required policies and procedures are in place in all audited dioceses and eparchies, but the auditors noted many had not updated them to reflect the 2011 *Charter* revision; specifically, the additional criteria for Article 5, which included the acquisition, possession, or distribution of child pornography and offenses against persons who habitually lack the use of reason, as



grounds for removal from the clerical state. During the 2015 audit cycle, all but one diocese/eparchy conducted safe environment training for children and young people and adults. Since all dioceses/eparchies now include some type of safe environment training, it is now time to confirm that their programs are having their intended purpose. The effectiveness of those programs is being discussed by the National Review Board.

Over 2.4 million background checks on our clerics, employees, and volunteers have become a part of what parishes and schools do. Over 2.4 million adults and 4.3 million children have also been trained to identify the warning signs of abuse and how to report those signs. Clergy in all dioceses and eparchies participate in ongoing formation to help them stay holy and healthy. Caring adults who are mindful of their training and alert to the possibility that the unthinkable can happen are encouraged to continually update their training and awareness.

But despite all the policies, procedures, codes of conduct, reports, and training, tragic and unacceptable events still occurred. This year's audit found twenty-six minors made an allegation against clergy. All allegations were reported to local civil authorities. Such incidents serve to remind us that we must be ever vigilant in our parishes and schools. Dioceses/eparchies must continue to work to improve their methods to prevent abuse and respond to allegations.

## MOVING FORWARD

Additionally, the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection (SCYP) is creating curriculum for dioceses based on the five principles of High Reliability Organizations (HRO). HRO principles may be found in organizations that deal with high-risk operations, where mistakes often lead to deadly consequences. Hospitals, the nuclear industry, and the military operate with an understanding of heightened mindfulness. These principles would benefit our work with children and young people:

### *Sensitivity to Operations*

Dioceses would benefit by being sensitive to the operations within their parishes. Many dioceses have

some form of oversight of their parishes. However, some only communicate with their parishes when problems arise. To ensure parishes are complying with *Charter* requirements and to make certain their procedures are effective, dioceses should be proactive in their outreach to parishes through an external audit, a formal internal audit, or use of the Survey Monkey assessment tool provided by the independent auditors. All parishes should have a uniform response when an allegation is received—the most important being to report all allegations to law enforcement first, not the chancery.

Issues with safe environment programs involve the training itself. Some dioceses consider sending home handouts as training. Others hand out codes of conduct and think that is enough. The safe environment training programs that dioceses use must be substantive to be effective. An evaluation of their programs would ensure dioceses that they are including the proper content. Dioceses should also do all they can to reduce opt-outs. If the faithful are hesitant to take part because of a distrust of the curriculum, steps should be taken to quell those fears. A child or parent who opts-out is one less individual who can effectively detect or respond to abuse. Every training counts. Many dioceses understand this and take an extra step to provide safe environment training renewals for both children and adults.

### *Preoccupation with Failure*

It is important for dioceses to review their policies and procedures, especially after they receive an allegation of abuse. Dioceses should be preoccupied with questions such as “how” and “why” the abuse occurred and whether or not they responded to victims/survivors in an appropriate way. Diocesan review boards are best suited based on the levels of expertise to analyze the dioceses' response and answer these questions. After an allegation is received and investigated, the diocese can make improvements to ensure it does not occur (at least in the same way) again.

A significant number of allegations continue to involve international priests. Dioceses should take note of this and ensure they are utilizing the appropriate methods for evaluating their backgrounds.

Some dioceses continue to have issues with their safe environment programs, especially in terms

of record-keeping. Dioceses should evaluate their databases and determine whether or not they are well-suited for their needs. In one instance, a diocese that switched from one record-keeping system to another was able to better recognize flaws. Such self-evaluation is applauded and hopefully some dioceses can notice flaws without having to switch providers or systems. Good record-keeping ensures only those who have been trained and background checked are near children.

### *Reluctance to Simplify*

All allegations must be given due diligence. No matter the perceived seriousness of an allegation, it should be reported to authorities and to the review board. Dioceses should be reluctant to simplify allegations into certain classes of abuse.

### *Deference to Expertise*

Whether an allegation is made via Facebook or directly to an ordinary, it should be taken seriously. Those who are closest to the instance of abuse or allegation sometimes have the most important responsibility because of their knowledge of the situation. It is those closest to the abuse that need to be heard.

### *Commitment to Resilience*

Staff turnover in diocesan and parish offices will become more pronounced as the first generation of leaders in our nation, especially those around since 2002 and 2003, begin to retire or move into new positions elsewhere. Dioceses should institutionalize policies and procedures rather than rely on historical knowledge of staff/employees alone. Dioceses should also ensure they have enough staff to effectively run the safe environment and victim assistance programs. A question to ask those working as safe environment coordinators and victim assistance coordinators is, “Who is going to replace you?” Start mentoring.

Communication is key when an allegation is received. This includes proper documentation of

the allegation and a resistance to consolidating the response to one or two individuals within the diocese. This is another reason why reporting allegations to the review board is important. Allegations can be mishandled if a diocese fails to share information or effectively communicate internally and externally. When a diocese receives a substantiated allegation, there may be other dioceses involved. Information should be shared.

When one part suffers, all parts suffer (see 1 Cor 12:26). This is especially true when it comes to victims/survivors and the Church. Dioceses need to continue to listen to those affected by abuse. While dioceses must facilitate healing for the victim/survivor, it is also important to listen first. Easing their suffering is paramount. In addition, when abuse occurs within a parish, the whole parish suffers. For this reason, openness and transparency in a diocese is necessary. Dioceses should ensure they have policies in place that specifically address communication between the diocese and an affected parish.

## CONCLUSION

The Church must never forget the role of the people who came forward to tell of their abuse. In his homily during Holy Mass with a group of victims/survivors, Pope Francis said, “the courage that [victims/survivors] and others have shown by speaking up, by telling the truth, was a service of love, since for us it shed light on a terrible darkness in the life of the Church” (July 7, 2014). Our efforts must be toward the healing of victims/survivors and the prevention of future abuse. Their courage and fortitude ought to be seen as a model for all of us—to never let evil win; to keep on talking until the evil is exposed. Their healing must remain in the forefront of the Church’s mission.

In this Year of Mercy, we once again offer our sincere and deepest apologies, and in communion with Pope Francis, we “pray that the remnants of the darkness which touched [victims/survivors] may be healed by the embrace of the Child Jesus and that the harm which was done to you will give way to renewed faith and joy” (Pope Francis, Homily, July 7, 2014).

# CHAPTER TWO

## STONEBRIDGE BUSINESS PARTNERS 2015 AUDIT REPORT

### OBJECTIVE

This Audit Report summarizes the results of the 2015 *Charter* audits for inclusion in the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection’s Annual Report, in accordance with Article 9 of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. Article 9 states, “The Secretariat is to produce an annual public report on the progress made in implementing and maintaining the standards in this *Charter*. The report is to be based on an annual audit process whose method, scope, and cost are to be approved by the Administrative Committee on the recommendation of the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. This public report is to include the names of those dioceses/eparchies which the audit shows are not in compliance with the provisions and expectations of the *Charter*.”

### BACKGROUND

The 2015 *Charter* audits represent the second year of the 2014-2016 audit cycle. StoneBridge Business Partners (StoneBridge) was contracted to audit the 196 Catholic dioceses and eparchies in the United States on behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the USCCB Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, and the National Review Board (NRB).

StoneBridge Business Partners is a specialty consulting firm headquartered in Rochester, New York, which provides forensic, internal, and compliance auditing services to leading organizations nationwide. The substantive auditing processes utilized by StoneBridge are tailored to the specific objectives

of each engagement. For the USCCB, StoneBridge worked with the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection (SCYP) to develop a comprehensive audit program, revise the documents used to collect data, and train StoneBridge staff and diocesan/eparchial personnel on the content, expectations, and requirements of the *Charter* audits.

More information on the SCYP, the USCCB Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, and the National Review Board is presented in the “Audit Findings & Recommendations” section of this report under Articles 8, 9, and 10, respectively.

### SCOPE

During 2015, StoneBridge visited 70 dioceses and eparchies (“on-site audits”), and collected data (“data collection audits”) from 120 others. One diocese and five eparchies did not participate in either type of audit, and cannot be considered compliant with the *Charter*. Of the 70 dioceses/eparchies that received on-site audits during 2015, one diocese was found non-compliant but only with respect to two articles of the *Charter*. All of the dioceses and eparchies participating in the data collection audits were found compliant with the audit requirements. Results of the audits are discussed by article in the “Audit Findings & Recommendations” section of this report.

Compliance with the *Charter* was determined based on implementation efforts during the period from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. Our examinations included Articles 1 through 7, and 12 through 17. Articles 8, 9, 10, and 11 are not the

subject of these audits, but information on each of these articles was provided to us by the SCYP for inclusion in this report.

## DEFINITIONS

The definitions presented below refer to select terms used in this report.

- “Bishop” refers to the head of any diocese or eparchy and is meant to include bishops, eparchs, and apostolic administrators.
- “Candidates for ordination” refers to all men in formation, including seminarians and those preparing for the permanent diaconate.
- “Canon law” refers to the body and laws of regulations made by or adopted by ecclesiastical authority for the government of the Christian organization and its members.
- “Children and youth” includes all students enrolled in diocesan/eparchial schools and religious education classes.
- “Clergy” is defined as the body of all men ordained for religious duties. In the context of the *Charter*, clergy includes priests and deacons.
- “Deacons” includes religious order or diocesan deacons in active or supply ministry in a diocese/eparchy (including retired deacons who continue to celebrate the sacraments occasionally).
- “Educators” includes paid teachers, principals, and administrators in diocesan/eparchial and parish schools.
- “Employees” refers to paid persons (other than priests/deacons or educators) who are employed by and work directly for the diocese/eparchy or parish/school such as central office/chancery/pastoral center personnel, youth ministers who are paid, parish ministers, school support staff, and rectory personnel.
- “Investigation ongoing” describes an allegation that is still being investigated, and for which a determination of credibility has not yet been made.
- “Laicized,” or more correctly, “removed from the clerical state,” results in the cessation of obligations and rights proper to the clerical state.
- “Minor” includes children and youth under the age of eighteen, and any individual over the age of eighteen who habitually lacks the use of reason.
- “Priests” includes religious order or diocesan priests in active or supply ministry in a diocese/eparchy (including retired clerics who continue to celebrate the sacraments occasionally).
- “Sexual abuse” in context to the *Charter* involves a “delict against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue committed by a cleric with a minor below the age of eighteen years.” In addition, as of 2011, it includes “the acquisition, possession, or distribution by a cleric of pornographic images of minors under the age of fourteen, for purposes of sexual gratification, by whatever means or using whatever technology.”
- “Substantiated” describes an allegation for which there is enough evidence to prove that the abuse occurred.
- “Survivor/victim” refers to any victim of clergy sexual abuse while he or she was a minor, as defined above.
- “Unable to be proven” describes an allegation for which there is not enough evidence to determine whether or not abuse occurred.
- “Unsubstantiated” describes an allegation for which enough evidence exists to prove that the abuse did not occur.
- “Volunteers” refers to unpaid personnel who assist the diocese/eparchy (including parishes and schools) such as catechists, youth ministers, and coaches.

## METHODOLOGY

In April 2015, StoneBridge and the SCYP hosted three audit workshops at the USCCB offices in Washington, DC. The workshops were attended by diocesan/eparchial personnel, either in person or via webinar, and covered the audit methodology and documentation requirements in detail (described below).

Whether participating in an on-site audit or a data collection audit, each diocese and eparchy must complete two documents, Chart A/B and Chart C/D. These charts were developed by the



SCYP, in collaboration with auditing firms, and further modified by StoneBridge. They are used to collect the information necessary from each diocese for inclusion in the Annual Report.

Chart A/B summarizes allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric as reported to a specific diocese during the audit year. Chart A/B contains information such as the number of allegations, the date the alleged abuse was reported, the approximate dates the alleged abuse occurred, the nature of the allegations including whether the victim is a current minor, the outcome of any investigations, if the allegation was reported to the diocesan review board and the status of the accused cleric as of the end of the audit period. Chart A/B also reports the number of abuse survivors and/or family members served by outreach during the audit period. Information from Chart A/B is used to compile statistics related to *Charter* Articles 1, 2, 4, and 5.

Chart C/D summarizes the compliance statistics related to Articles 12 and 13, such as:

- total number of children enrolled in Catholic schools and parish religious education programs
- total number of priests, deacons, candidates for ordination, employees, and volunteers ministering in the diocese or eparchy
- total number of individuals in each category that have received safe environment training and background evaluations
- programs used for training each category
- agencies used for background evaluations
- frequency of training and background evaluations
- method used for collecting the data from parishes and schools

Statistics from Charts A/B and C/D are presented by article in the “Audit Findings & Recommendations” section of this report.

During a data collection audit, StoneBridge reviews both Chart A/B and Chart C/D for completeness, and forwards the charts to the SCYP as proof of the diocese/eparchy’s participation. This year, the charts were required to be submitted by September 1, 2015. Extensions were granted to fifty locations, up from forty-one in the prior audit year.

In addition to Chart A/B and Chart C/D, on-site audit participants are required to complete the

Audit Instrument, which allows a diocese or eparchy to explain its specific compliance activities related to each aspect of each article of the *Charter*. During the audit, StoneBridge verifies Audit Instrument responses through interviews with diocesan/eparchial personnel and review of supporting documentation.

As a supplement to the Audit Instrument, dioceses and eparchies participating in on-site audits were provided with a Source Document Request Letter prior to their audit. This letter offered, by article, examples of supporting documentation that the auditors may want to review on-site as evidence of compliance. The purpose of the letter was to assist diocesan/eparchial personnel with preparing for the audit and maximize the efficiency of the auditors while on-site. In most cases, dioceses and eparchies were fully prepared for the audit, and the necessary documentation was assembled in binders or folders by article for ease of reference.

StoneBridge staff employ various interview techniques during the performance of these audits. Our interview style tends to be more relaxed and conversational, versus interrogative. Our intent is to learn about an interviewee’s role(s) at the diocese or eparchy, specifically as his or her role(s) relate to *Charter* implementation. In addition, we may interview survivors of abuse and accused clerics, if any are willing. Our auditors interviewed three victims in 2015. No accused clerics were interviewed during this audit period. The objective of these interviews is to ensure that both survivors and the accused are being treated in accordance with guidelines established in the *Charter*.

Parish audits are an optional but nonetheless important part of our audit methodology. During parish audits, StoneBridge auditors, often accompanied by diocesan/eparchial personnel, visit diocesan/eparchial parishes and schools to assess the effectiveness of the *Charter* implementation program. StoneBridge staff may review database records and physical files maintained at the parish or school to determine whether employees and volunteers are appropriately trained and background checked. We interview parish/school personnel and visually inspect posted information on how or where to report an allegation of abuse, such as victim/survivor assistance posters in vestibules or contact information in weekly bulletins. For dioceses and eparchies that do not conduct their own audits of parishes, parish audits are helpful in pointing

out areas of parish-level *Charter* implementation that could be improved. Parish audits are strongly encouraged, as they are usually indicative of the strength of a diocese or eparchy's *Charter* implementation program. This year, StoneBridge visited 104 parishes/schools in thirty-one dioceses, up from the 86 parishes (in twenty-four dioceses) that were visited last year. Based upon our conversations and review of documents, the increase in parish audits can be attributed to dioceses understanding the importance of visiting locations. As many of them do not have the time/resources to do it themselves, they requested that parish audits be done during our on-site visit. Of the 190 locations participating in the overall audit process this year, 98 indicated that they perform parish audits in some form on a regular basis and 20 perform them on an "as needed" basis. For those dioceses not currently performing their own parish audits, StoneBridge discussed the importance of this practice and suggested that the diocese consider whether or not it would be a feasible option in the future. Please refer to Appendix I for a list of dioceses that requested parish audits during their scheduled on-site audit by StoneBridge auditors in 2015.

Again this year, in an effort to offer more comprehensive information to dioceses and eparchies about *Charter* knowledge and implementation efforts at the parish and school level, StoneBridge offered a web-based audit survey to dioceses/eparchies. The survey was not a required part of the audit but simply an optional assessment tool for dioceses and eparchies to distribute to parish/school locations. The survey consisted of twenty-nine *Charter* related questions, such as "How would you rate the level of comprehension of safe environment related policies and procedures among staff, volunteers, and parishioners?" and "Are copies of the code of conduct and/or diocesan/eparchial standards of ministerial behavior made available to clergy and other personnel/volunteers of the parish?" The electronic surveys were to be completed by someone at each parish/school who has some responsibility for the implementation of the *Charter* at that location. Survey results were transmitted electronically back to StoneBridge. Prior to arriving on-site, auditors reviewed and summarized the results of the survey, and shared these with diocesan/eparchial personnel. Of the seventy dioceses/eparchies that received on-site audits during 2015, seventeen

dioceses elected to use the parish survey. This figure is up from the thirteen dioceses that elected to use the survey in 2014. Survey results confirmed that parishes and schools generally had a high level of knowledge of the *Charter* and diocesan/eparchial policies and procedures. Any other comments or concerns expressed by participants within in the survey were communicated to diocesan/eparchial personnel during the audit for their consideration.

At the completion of each on-site audit, two letters are prepared by the auditors. The first letter is called the Compliance Letter. This letter communicates to bishops and eparchs whether their dioceses/eparchies were found to be in compliance with the *Charter*. The Compliance Letter is brief and states that the determination of compliance was "based upon our inquiry, observation and the review of specifically requested documentation furnished to StoneBridge Business Partners during the course of our audit." Any specific instances of noncompliance, if applicable, would be identified in this communication.

The second letter, called the Management Letter, communicates to the bishop or eparch any suggestions that the auditors wish to make based on their findings during the on-site audit. Any comments made in these letters, as each Management Letter states, "do not affect compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*; they are simply suggestions for consideration." We made receipt of a Management Letter optional again this year. However, if a comment was considered to be something that could potentially affect the compliance of the diocese or eparchy in the future, a written management letter was mandatory. Thirteen bishops requested not to receive Management Letters upon completion of this year's audit. In any case, suggestions for improvements were delivered verbally during the on-site audit. Examples of Management Letter comments are provided by article in the "Audit Findings & Recommendations" section of this report. A list of all the dioceses and eparchies that received on-site audits during 2015 can be found in Appendix II of this report.

At the completion of each data collection audit, a bishop or eparch will receive a Data Collection Compliance Letter, which is prepared by StoneBridge. The letter will state whether or not a diocese or eparchy is "in compliance with the data collection requirements for the 2014/2015 *Charter* audit period." Receipt of this letter does not imply that a diocese or

eparchy is compliant with the *Charter*. Compliance with the *Charter* can only be effectively determined by participation in an on-site audit.

Based upon our review of the information submitted for the data collection audit, a diocese/eparchy may also receive a data collection memo with their compliance letter. These memos do not affect the compliance of the diocese/eparchy. They are issued for situations that could potentially cause compliance issues in the future, during the next on-site audit. Of the 120 data collection audits completed for the 2015 audit year, StoneBridge issued ten data collection memos. Eight of these memos were related to the training of children and youth. One was regarding the clean-up of the diocesan database to be able to more efficiently identify individuals in need of background checks, and the last was related to the reporting of an allegation on Chart A/B.

## SCOPE LIMITATIONS

A scope limitation, for purposes of this report, is a circumstance that may negatively impact our ability to perform a thorough audit. This year, we identified six major scope limitations to the performance of our audits:

### *I. Continued hesitation and/or reluctance to participate in parish audits or surveys*

Although the number of parish audits for the 2015 audit year increased from last year, most dioceses and all eparchies opted not to have StoneBridge conduct parish audits or surveys. Many dioceses reported that they now perform their own parish audits based on suggestions made by StoneBridge during the 2011-2013 audit cycle. We continue to emphasize that parishes and schools represent the front lines in any diocese's or eparchy's *Charter* compliance efforts. If a diocese or eparchy does not conduct some form of audit of its parishes and schools—whether by a diocesan/eparchial representative or an external auditor such as StoneBridge—the bishop or eparch cannot be sure that *Charter*-related policies and procedures are clearly communicated and effectively carried out. At the

chancery or pastoral center, our auditors may review certain *Charter* implementation policies and observe related back office procedures, but without observing the same procedures at the parish/school level, we are unable to verify that parishes and schools are effectively implementing the *Charter*.

### *II. Inconsistent methods of collecting and reporting compliance statistics*

Each year during the audit cycle, we attempt to further clarify the instructions for compiling safe environment training and/or background check statistics to be reported on Chart C/D. Some dioceses and eparchies have developed practically seamless methods for requesting and collecting the necessary data to support whether their clergy, employees, and volunteers who work with children are appropriately trained and background checked. Other dioceses and eparchies continue to struggle with outdated information, lack of cooperation at the parish/school level, and inefficient processes for information gathering. As a result, the auditors are furnished incomplete or inaccurate data which affects the reliability of the information presented in this report.

### *III. Turnover of personnel charged with Charter implementation*

Another issue related to *Charter* compliance at the parish/school level is the frequency of turnover in key positions, such as in the director of religious education or principal roles. Even at the chancery/pastoral center, turnover of human resources personnel, a safe environment coordinator, or a bishop may affect the implementation of a *Charter* compliance program during a given year. Simultaneous changes in personnel at both levels could lead to a breakdown in the process.

### *IV. Failure to participate in the audit process*

Of course, the greatest scope limitation to this engagement, whether the audit is performed on-site or via data collection, is failure to participate. In 2015, six locations did not participate in either the

on-site or data collection process, so no information on these locations could be included in this report.

- Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska
- Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle
- Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark for Syrians
- Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg for Armenians
- Eparchy of Stamford for Ukrainians
- Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter

It is our understanding that the Diocese of Lincoln and the eparchies listed above have requested to be added to the schedule for an audit in 2016.

## V. Incomplete and/or inaccurate audit documents

Audit documents and instructions were sent electronically to all dioceses and eparchies in May of 2015. We communicated during the audit workshops that any questions on how to fill out the documents should be directed to StoneBridge staff prior to submission. Despite the frequent phone calls and emails we receive from diocesan/eparchial personnel throughout the year, we noted a significant number of incomplete and/or inaccurate documents submitted during this audit period. Several Audit Instruments were not completely filled out, which required the auditors to go through each item with the diocese/eparchy, resulting in less efficient use of time spent on-site.

## VI. Late submission of audit documents

Diocese and eparchies were instructed to submit Chart A/B and Chart C/D by September 1, 2015, or one week prior to the on-site audit date, whichever came first. For those receiving an on-site audit, the Audit Instrument was due at least one week prior to the date of the audit. Although these due dates were communicated several times throughout the audit workshops and via e-mail, dioceses and eparchies continue to submit their documents past the deadline. For the data collection audits, this slows down the review process and cross referencing of any allegations that are referred to/from other dioceses/eparchies. For the on-site audits, this does not provide the auditors with a sufficient amount of time to review the documentation to prepare for the audit.

## AUDIT FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

### ARTICLE I

Articles 1, 2, and 3 of the *Charter* were established to promote healing and reconciliation with victims/survivors of sexual abuse by clergy. Article 1 states, “Dioceses/eparchies are to reach out to victims/survivors and their families and demonstrate a sincere commitment to their spiritual and emotional well-being. . . This outreach may include provision of counseling, spiritual assistance, support groups, and other social services agreed upon by the victim and the diocese/eparchy.” All dioceses and eparchies visited this year had well-established policies and procedures for providing outreach and promoting healing and reconciliation in the spirit of Article 1. The most common form of outreach provided is payment or reimbursement for professional therapy services. Some dioceses/eparchies will offer other forms of financial support on a case-by-case basis.

When an allegation involves more than one diocese and/or eparchy, both locations may have some responsibility for coordinating outreach. As a result, both locations report the same allegation on Chart A/B, and StoneBridge must attempt to cross-check the reporting of these allegations so that they are not counted twice in this report. Again this year, we found that recently established dioceses (those that were created in the 1970s or evolved from larger dioceses) were not obligated to provide as much outreach to victims/survivors as their older counterparts. When victims/survivors come forward with an allegation that pre-dates the existence of a particular diocese, the allegation is referred to the “parent” dioceses because the “parent” was the entity responsible for the cleric at the time the abuse occurred. While it appears reasonable to assign fiscal responsibility for care of a survivor to the “parent” dioceses, both dioceses are obligated by the *Charter* to ensure that the survivor’s needs for healing and reconciliation are met.

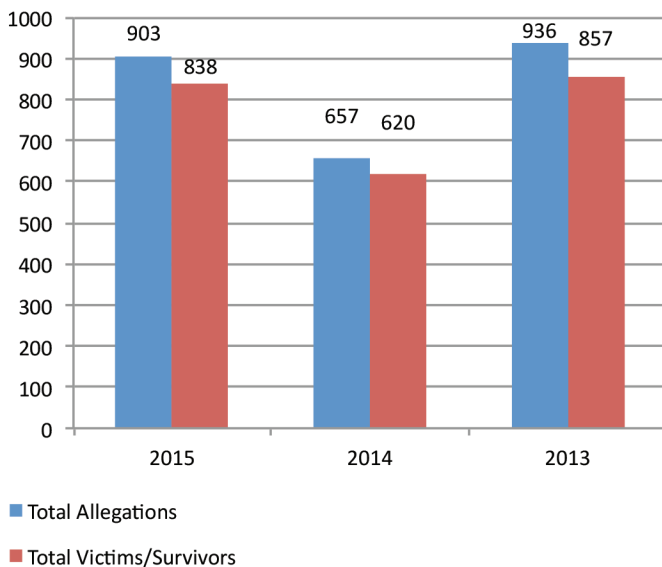
We also noted some confusion surrounding what should get reported on Chart A/B. Many dioceses/eparchies assume that if the allegation was referred to another diocese/eparchy, they do not need to include it in their reporting. The expectation is that the report would be included on the other



dioceses/eparchy’s chart. Although the diocese/eparchy who initially received the report may not be directly involved in the investigation of the allegation and/or providing support to the victim/survivor, this information still needs to be included on Chart A/B. When allegations are not reported on Chart A/B, there is a concern as to whether or not the victim’s healing and reconciliation needs are being met. Including all reports that are received and/or referred will ensure complete and accurate documents as well as confirm that every effort is being made to ensure survivors are appropriately cared for.

Between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, 838 survivors of child sexual abuse by clergy came forward in 123 Catholic dioceses and eparchies with 903 allegations. These allegations represent reports of abuse between a specific alleged victim and a specific alleged accused, whether the abuse was a single incident or a series of incidents over a period of time. The abuse was purported to have occurred from the 1940s to the present. Chart 1-1 below summarizes the total allegations and total victims/survivors from 2013 through 2015.

**Chart 1-1: Total Allegations/Total Victims, 2013-2015**

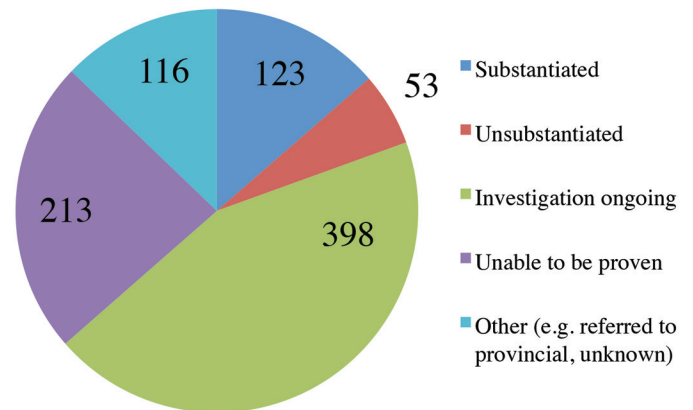


Compared to 2014, the number of allegations has increased significantly. This is mainly due to six dioceses experiencing an influx of allegations during the 2015 audit year. Of the increase in these six dioceses, three were due to bankruptcy proceedings

and the other three were due to the state opening the statute of limitations. As a result of these bankruptcies and statute changes, an additional 304 allegations were received by these six dioceses compared to 2014.

For purposes of this audit, the investigation of an allegation has five potential outcomes. An allegation is “substantiated” when enough evidence exists to prove that abuse occurred. An allegation is “unsubstantiated” when enough evidence exists to prove that abuse did not occur. An allegation is “unable to be proven” when there is not enough evidence to determine whether or not abuse occurred, and that investigation is deemed incomplete. This is generally the outcome of an investigation when the accused cleric is deceased or his status or location is unknown. Since the information collected was as of June 30, 2015, some allegations were still under investigation. We categorized these allegations as “investigation ongoing.” In other cases, an investigation had not yet begun for various reasons or the allegation had been referred to another diocese/eparchy. We categorized these allegations as “other.” Chart 1-2 below summarizes the status of the 903 allegations as of June 30, 2015.

**Chart 1-2: Status of Allegations as of June 30, 2015**



A total of 413 allegations were brought to the attention of diocesan/eparchial representatives by survivors themselves, making self-disclosure the principal reporting method during the audit period. The second most popular method of reporting was through an attorney, which represented 324 of the

total allegations. The remaining 166 reports were made by spouses, relatives, or other representatives such as other dioceses, eparchies, religious orders, or law enforcement officials who brought the allegations to the attention of the proper diocese/eparchy on behalf of the survivor.

When the victim/survivor comes forward him or herself, or with the assistance of a friend or relative, dioceses and eparchies are able to freely communicate with the survivor about available support services and assistance programs. When a survivor comes forward through an attorney, by way of a civil or bankruptcy claim, or the diocese/eparchy is made aware of an allegation as part of an ongoing investigation by law enforcement, dioceses and eparchies may be prevented from providing outreach directly to the survivor. In some cases, however, we found that dioceses and eparchies have attempted to fulfill their *Charter* obligation under Article 1 by communicating information about available support services and assistance programs to the agents of the survivors. During the current audit period, dioceses and eparchies provided outreach and support to 199 victims/survivors and their families who reported during this audit period. Continued support was provided to 1,646 victims/survivors and their families who reported abuse in prior audit periods.

As part of our audit procedures, we asked dioceses and eparchies to report on Chart A/B the date the abuse was reported as well as the date outreach services were offered. We then compared these dates to determine how promptly dioceses and eparchies responded to victims/survivors to offer outreach as required by Article 1. Of the 838 victims/survivors who reported during the audit period, 46 percent, or 386 of them were offered outreach. This percentage decreased from 2014 due to the significant number of allegations being reported through an attorney/bankruptcy proceedings. Instances of outreach not being offered occurred when the victim stated in their report to the diocese or eparchy that they did not want any help, when there was anonymous reporting, lack of contact information for the victim, and when victims came through an attorney or bankruptcy proceeding. Of the total who did receive an offer for outreach, 82 percent, or 317 of them were offered outreach within ten days of reporting the abuse, 8 percent, or 29 were offered outreach between eleven and thirty days of reporting, and

10 percent, or 40 individuals were offered outreach after thirty days due to specific circumstances related to attorneys, lawsuits, investigations, or difficulty in contacting the victim. These figures demonstrate the sincere commitment the bishops have made to foster reconciliation with the survivors of child sexual abuse as set forth in Article 1.

## ARTICLE 2

Article 2 has multiple compliance components related to a diocese/eparchy's response to allegations of sexual abuse of minors. First, Article 2 requires that policies and procedures exist for prompt responses to allegations of sexual abuse of minors. All dioceses and eparchies visited in 2015 have written procedures for responding to allegations of sexual abuse of minors, though we found sixteen dioceses and one eparchy that hadn't updated their policies and procedures in at least three to five years. We suggested in our Management Letters that dioceses/eparchies consider revising their policies and procedures to ensure language is up to date and policies are clear with regard to the requirements of Article 2. For example, the *Charter* definition of "sexual abuse" was updated in 2011 to include "the acquisition, possession, or distribution by a cleric of pornographic images of minors under the age of fourteen." Although this change took place in 2011, we still noted ten dioceses/eparchies whose policies and procedures did not include the revised definition of sexual abuse. Some dioceses referenced the *Charter* revision in the footnotes of their policy manuals but did not explicitly update the definition in the policy itself.

Second, Article 2 requires dioceses and eparchies to "have a competent person or persons to coordinate assistance for the immediate pastoral care of persons who report having been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other church personnel." Most dioceses and eparchies fulfill this requirement by appointing a Victim Assistance Coordinator (VAC), sometimes called a Victim Assistance Minister. Survivors are directed to contact this individual to make reports about child sexual abuse by clergy. Sometimes the contact person is not the VAC but a different individual working in the pastoral center, even a member of clergy. While a member of clergy may be competent to fill the position, a victim/survivor

of child sexual abuse by clergy may be less inclined to make a report to him. Dioceses and eparchies should give some consideration to lay or clergy status when appointing an individual to the VAC position or contact person role.

Article 2 also states that “procedures for those making a complaint are to be available in printed form in the principal languages in which the liturgy is celebrated in the diocese/eparchy and be the subject of public announcements at least annually.” Dioceses and eparchies complied with this component by publishing versions of policies and procedures in multiple languages on their website. The existence of these procedures is typically made known to the public by an announcement in the diocesan/eparchial paper or newsletter, and some form of publication at the parish level. As a result of our on-site visits, we noted ten dioceses/eparchies where procedures for making a complaint were not available in all languages, or not published frequently or at all in the newspaper, parish bulletins and/or on parish websites. These issues were addressed in our Management Letters and discussed with diocesan/eparchial personnel while on-site.

The fourth component of compliance with Article 2 concerns the review board. The *Charter* requires every diocese and eparchy to have an independent review board “to advise the diocesan/eparchial bishop in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse of minors and in his determination of a cleric’s suitability for ministry.” In addition, the review board is charged with regularly reviewing policies and procedures for responding to allegations. A diocese’s or eparchy’s compliance with this component of Article 2 was determined by interviews with review board members, and the review of redacted meeting minutes and agendas from review board meetings that took place during the audit period. We found that while all dioceses and eparchies visited have a review board in place, the role each review board plays and the frequency with which each review board meets varies significantly. Of the seventy dioceses/eparchies visited during the current audit period, we noted five diocesan review boards that were not meeting regularly. One of the five did not meet at all during the current audit period.

Again this year, it appears that many review boards have failed to prepare for future board turnover and have not considered adding new

members to the board. Four dioceses did not have defined term limits for board members, and as a result, most members had served since the board was established. We recommended that these dioceses consider implementing a transition plan for review board members, including staggered terms to maintain continuity yet offer fresh perspectives from new members.

The *Charter* also requires that the majority of review board members be lay persons not in the employ of the dioceses/eparchy. Due to some turnover on review boards, we noted two dioceses that did not meet this requirement. However, both were in the process of looking for additional board members. We issued recommendations to both of these to continue their search to ensure that the board configuration is in line with *Charter* requirements.

We noted that most dioceses/eparchies visited in 2015 convened their review boards at least one time per year. Some tried to gather up to four times per year (quarterly), whether those meetings were set in advance or convened as needed. With the continued decline in the number of current allegations received by dioceses and eparchies, it may seem reasonable that other dioceses/eparchies did not feel the need to convene review board meetings as frequently. However, we continued to stress how important it is for dioceses and eparchies to be using the available resources and talents of their review board members to ensure that *Charter*-related policies and procedures are current, and take time to review recent events occurring in the dioceses around them. Review boards may also want to discuss the diocese/eparchy’s approach to allegation intake and monitoring of accused clerics to brainstorm any areas for improvement.

We were pleased to observe this year that some dioceses have expanded the role of their review boards to include examining cases concerning cleric boundary violations and allegations involving lay employees. These dioceses recognize that the specialized group of professionals serving on their board could be a beneficial resource to them outside the confines of the *Charter*.

### ARTICLE 3

The dioceses and eparchies visited this year consistently upheld all aspects of Article 3, which prohibits

dioceses and eparchies from requesting confidentiality as part of their settlements with survivors. Confidentiality is only allowed if requested by the survivor and must be noted so in the text of the agreement. As evidence of compliance with this article, dioceses and eparchies provided us with redacted copies of complete settlement agreements for review. We noted one diocese in which the language in the settlement agreement appeared vague with respect to confidentiality. We discussed the issues with appropriate personnel and confirmed compliance but recommended that in future settlement agreements, the diocese should explicitly state whether confidentiality was required, and if it was, whether the request was made by the victim/survivor.

## ARTICLE 4

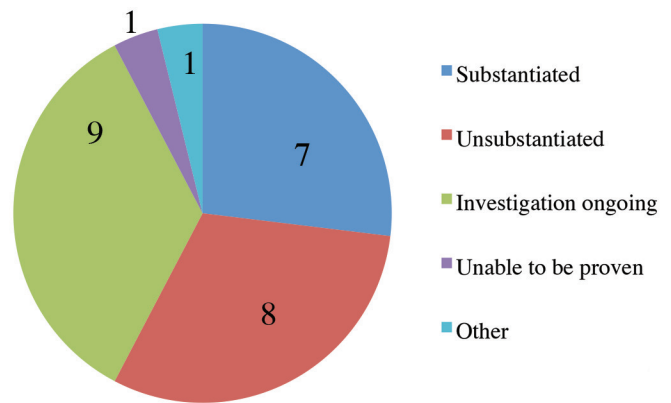
Articles 4 through 7 intend to guarantee an effective response to allegations of sexual abuse of minors.

Article 4 requires dioceses and eparchies to report an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to the public authorities. Compliance with Article 4 was determined by review of related policies and procedures, letters to local authorities regarding new allegations, and interviews with diocesan/eparchial personnel responsible for making the reports. In some instances, auditors reached out to the applicable public authorities and confirmed diocesan cooperation. Overall, based upon our discussions with diocesan/eparchial personnel and review of documents, dioceses and eparchies generally have positive interactions with law enforcement. The biggest frustration dioceses and eparchies have with law enforcement appears to be lack of communication or follow up by law enforcement after a case is investigated. Dioceses and eparchies appropriately stand down during an investigation by law enforcement but may not be notified when an investigation is complete. As a result, the diocese/eparchy is unable to begin its own investigation, which may include referral of the allegation to the review board to discuss a cleric's suitability for ministry. Of the dioceses visited during 2015, we noted one that did not send a letter to the local authorities regarding an allegation until almost ten months after the date it was reported. Although this allegation was not regarding a current minor and was related to abuse that occurred in the 1950s against a priest who was

previously removed from ministry, we recommended that the diocese review their policies and procedures to ensure that the proper tasks are being completed in a timely manner for all allegations.

Of the allegations of child sexual abuse by clergy reported during the audit period, twenty-six involved current minors. Of this total, eight were male and eighteen were female. All cases were reported to the local civil authorities as required by the *Charter* and statutory mandated reporter laws. Chart 4-1 below illustrates the status of each of the twenty-six claims made by current year minors as of June 30, 2015.

**Chart 4-1: Status of Claims by Minors as of June 30, 2015**



Of the twenty-six allegations made by current minors, seven were substantiated as of June 30, 2015.

Nine of the twenty-six allegations from minors were either unsubstantiated or unable to be proven, and the clerics remain in active ministry as of June 30, 2015. Four of the nine allegations were assessed by the diocesan review boards and determined to be more of a boundary issue than an instance of sexual abuse. In these cases, the accused clergy is made aware of what behavior is acceptable and reminded of the diocesan code of conduct. However, they were not removed from ministry.

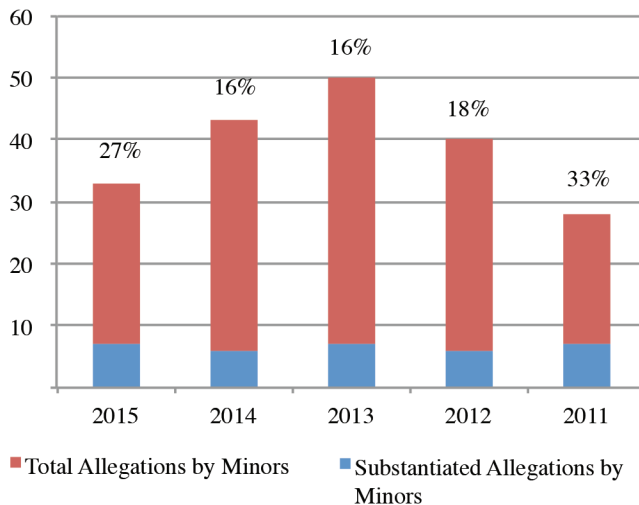
Investigations were still in process for nine of the allegations as of June 30, 2015. Of these nine, four allegations were related to more boundary-related issues than an accusation of sexual abuse.

One allegation from a minor was referred to the religious order for their investigation.



Chart 4-2 compares the percentage of substantiated claims by minors to total claims by minors over the last five years.

**Chart 4-2: Substantiated Allegations Versus Total Allegations Made by Current Minors, 2011–2015**



Article 4 also covers the reporting protocol for an allegation of abuse against an individual who habitually lacks the use of reason. The *Charter* was updated in 2011 to include in the definition of a “minor” any adult who “habitually lacks the use of reason.” While we did not collect specific data on allegations made by these individuals, we attempted to locate specific language regarding this matter in relevant diocesan and eparchial policies. We noted seven dioceses/eparchies where policies did not explicitly include this revised definition of a “minor.” We recommended that dioceses/eparchies consider revising their policies to include this language.

## ARTICLE 5

Article 5 of the *Charter* has two components: removal of credibly accused clerics in accordance with canon law and the fair treatment of all clerics against whom allegations have been made, whether the allegations are deemed credible or not. Compliance with Article 5 is determined by review of policies and procedures, review of relevant documentation

(such as decrees of dismissal from the clerical state, decrees mandating a life of prayer and penance, prohibitions concerning the exercise of public ministry, etc.), and interviews with diocesan/eparchial personnel.

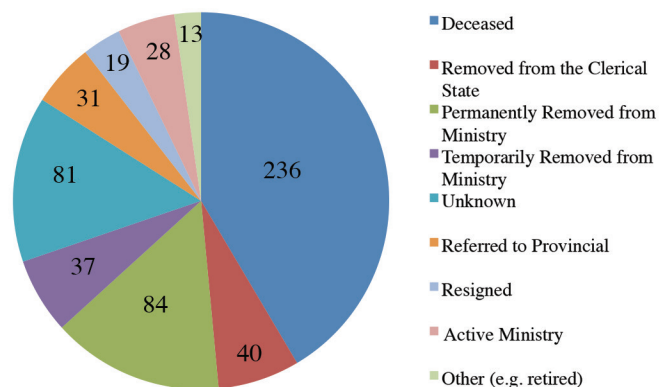
The number of clerics accused of sexual abuse of a minor during the audit period totaled 569. The accused clerics were categorized as priests, deacons, unknown, or other. An “unknown” cleric is used for a situation in which the victim/survivor was unable to provide the identity of the accused. “Other” represents a cleric from another diocese for which details of ordination and/or incardination were not provided. Accused priests for the audit period totaled 505. Of this total, 367 were diocesan priests, 106 belonged to a religious order, and 31 were incardinated elsewhere. There were six deacons accused during the audit period. Allegations brought against “unknown” clerics totaled forty-eight, and eleven “other” clerics were accused. Of the total identified clerics, 216 or 42 percent of them had been accused in previous audit periods.

In addition to updating the definition of “minor,” the 2011 *Charter* revision updated the Church’s definition of “sexual abuse” to include “the acquisition, possession, or distribution by a cleric of pornographic images of minors under the age of fourteen, for purposes of sexual gratification, by whatever means or using whatever technology.” During the 2014-2015 audit period, six allegations were brought against clerics for possession of child pornography. As of June 30, 2015, four of the six allegations were still under investigation, one was substantiated and the priest was permanently removed from ministry, and one related to a religious order priest was referred to the superior of the religious order for their investigation.

These six clerics are included in the statistics presented in Chart 5-1.

The following chart summarizes the status of the 569 accused clerics as of June 30, 2015.

**Chart 5-1: Status of Accused Clerics as of June 30, 2015**



Article 5 requires that accused clerics be accorded the same rights as victims during investigation of allegations. They should be offered civil and canonical counsel, accorded the presumption of innocence, and given the opportunity to receive professional therapy services. In practice, it appears that dioceses and eparchies are compliant with this component of Article 5. However, these specific items may not be explicitly provided for within diocesan/eparchial policy. We made comments to this effect in three Management Letters. Additionally, we noted that dioceses and eparchies struggle with how to restore the good name of a falsely accused cleric as required under Article 5. Many dioceses/eparchies will make a public announcement at the parish or publish an article in the diocesan/eparchial newspaper that states an allegation against a cleric was unsubstantiated; however, most felt that such an announcement could not undo any damage done to the cleric's reputation. To prevent tarnishing the accused cleric's name during an investigation not involving a current year minor, some dioceses and eparchies choose not to remove the cleric from ministry until the allegation is determined to be substantiated. When a cleric is not removed, no announcement is made, and his name remains intact. Still, dioceses and eparchies continue to look for guidance and suggestions on how to properly restore a cleric's good name should it be wrongly tarnished. We noted three dioceses that did not have a written policy in place for restoring the good

name of a falsely accused cleric. Management Letter comments were issued to these dioceses suggesting that this practice be explicitly stated in the policies.

When a cleric is removed from the clerical state, the diocese/eparchy usually severs their direct relationship with a cleric. However, when a cleric is not removed from the clerical state but rather removed from ministry, the diocese/eparchy remains responsible for his behavior. Although Article 5 does not specifically require dioceses and eparchies to monitor clerics removed from ministry, bishops and eparchs are looking to take a more proactive approach to protecting the faithful. During our audit process, we noted that some dioceses have developed effective methods for monitoring these clergy while most dioceses continue to struggle with how to maintain the lines of communication to ensure the clergy are abiding by their restrictions as a result of being credibly accused. We were able to provide some guidance to dioceses about the monitoring programs we have observed being successfully implemented in other locations. However, this issue presents an ongoing challenge to dioceses/eparchies in situations where clergy are being removed from ministry but not from the clerical state. Most dioceses/eparchies are not adequately equipped, nor do they have the necessary resources, to properly monitor the daily activity of clergy restricted from ministry.

All dioceses and eparchies visited in 2015 were found compliant with Article 5.

## ARTICLE 6

Article 6 is concerned with establishing and communicating appropriate behavioral guidelines for individuals ministering to minors. Compliance with Article 6 is determined by review of a diocese/eparchy's Code of Conduct, related policies and procedures, and through interviews with diocesan/eparchial personnel.

In the same way we reviewed diocesan/eparchial policies and procedures for Article 2, we attempted to verify that Codes of Conduct used in dioceses and eparchies were updated to include specific language regarding the acquisition, possession, and distribution of child pornography. Although these changes were made to the *Charter* in 2011, we noted five dioceses/eparchies who had not updated their Codes

of Conduct to specifically prohibit clergy, personnel, and volunteers from engaging in these activities. Our Management Letters recommended that dioceses/eparchies consider reviewing their current Codes of Conduct to make the necessary changes.

We also noted one diocese that had a Code of Conduct for clergy but not for employees or volunteers. Five other dioceses had Codes of Conduct, but they had not been updated in at least three to five years. Management Letter comments were issued to these dioceses suggesting that a review of the Code of Conduct be done to ensure the language is up to date.

## ARTICLE 7

Article 7 requires dioceses/eparchies to be open and transparent in their communications to the public regarding allegations of sexual abuse of minors by clergy, especially those parishes that may have been affected. The *Charter* does not address the timeliness of such communications, so for the purposes of our audit, a diocese or eparchy was considered compliant if the diocese could demonstrate that at the very least a cleric's removal was formally announced to the affected parish community.

We noted two dioceses/eparchies that had either outdated policies regarding communication or no formal policy for communications at all. Outdated policies include those that had not been updated

within the last three to five years. We recommended in our Management Letters that these dioceses take a closer look at their communication policies to ensure they accurately reflect their procedures for compliance with Article 7. We also recommended that dioceses/eparchies with a suitable communication policy already in place consider creating a flowchart or other document that acts as a roadmap for communicating an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to the community. The flowchart should be very specific on who is responsible for each step, at what point information is communicated and to whom, and when it occurs. This would eliminate inconsistencies in the way allegations are handled and prevent any miscommunications or failures in the process.

## ARTICLE 8

Articles 8 through 11 ensure the accountability of procedures for implementing the *Charter* across the United States and therefore are not subject to audit. Information on each of these articles has been provided by the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection for inclusion in our report.

Membership of the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People (CPCYP) from July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016, included the following bishops, shown with the regions they represented, and consultants:

### November 2014–November 2015

Bishop Edward J. Burns, Chair  
*Term expires in 2017*

Bishop Peter Uglietto (I)  
*Term expires November 2017*

Bishop Terry R. LaValley  
*Term expires November 2016*

Bishop David A. Zubik (III)  
*Term expires November 2017*

Bishop Barry C. Knestout (IV)  
*Term expires November 2017*

### November 2015–November 2016

#### Bishops

Bishop Edward J. Burns, Chair  
*Term expires in 2017*

Bishop Peter Uglietto (I)  
*Term expires November 2017*

Bishop Terry R. LaValley  
*Term expires November 2016*

Bishop David A. Zubik (III)  
*Term expires November 2017*

Bishop Barry C. Knestout (IV)  
*Term expires November 2017*

# 2015 Annual Report: Findings and Recommendations

Bishop William F. Medley (V)  
*Term expires November 2016*

Bishop Joseph R. Binzer (VI)  
*Term expired November 2015*

Bishop Edward K. Braxton (VII)  
*Term expired November 2015*

Bishop John M. LeVoir (VIII)  
*Term expired November 2015*

Bishop Carl A. Kemme (IX)  
*Term expires November 2017*

Bishop Patrick J. Zurek (X)  
*Term expires November 2016*

Region XI not represented.

Bishop Liam Cary (XII)  
*Term expires November 2017*

Bishop Eduardo Nevares (XIII)  
*Term expired November 2015*

Bishop David P. Talley (XIV)  
*Term expires November 2017*

Bishop Thomas Mar Eusebius (XV)  
*Term expired November 2015*

Bishop William F. Medley (V)  
*Term expires November 2016*

Bishop Steven J. Raica (VI)  
*Term expires November 2018*

Bishop Edward K. Braxton (VII)  
*Term expires November 2018*

Bishop Donald J. Kettler (VIII)  
*Term expires November 2018*

Bishop Carl A. Kemme (IX)  
*Term expires November 2017*

Bishop Patrick J. Zurek (X)  
*Term expires November 2016*

Bishop William J. Justice (XI)  
*Term expires November 2016*

Bishop Liam Cary (XII)  
*Term expires November 2017*

Bishop Paul D. Etienne (XIII)  
*Term expires November 2018*

Bishop David P. Talley (XIV)  
*Term expires November 2017*

Bishop Jacob Angadiath (XV)  
*Term expires November 2018*

## Consultants

Rev. Msgr. Brian Bransfield  
*Associate General Secretary*  
USCCB

Fr. James J. Greenfield, OSFS  
*President*  
*Conference of Major Superiors of Men*

Rev. John Pavlik, OFM Cap  
*Executive Director*  
*Conference of Major Superiors of Men*

Rev. William Shawn McKnight  
*Executive Director*  
*Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life*  
*and Vocations, USCCB*

Rev. Msgr. Brian Bransfield  
*General Secretary*  
USCCB

Fr. James J. Greenfield, OSFS  
*President*  
*Conference of Major Superiors of Men*

Rev. John Pavlik, OFM Cap  
*Executive Director*  
*Conference of Major Superiors of Men*

Rev. Ralph O'Donnell  
*Executive Director*  
*Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life*  
*and Vocations, USCCB*



Judge Michael Merz  
*Former Chair*  
*National Review Board*

Mr. Jeffrey Hunter Moon  
*Director of Legal Affairs*  
*Office of General Counsel, USCCB*

Mr. James Rogers  
*Chief Communications Officer*

Ms. Siobhan Verbeek  
*Director*  
*Canonical Affairs*

Ms. Rita Flaherty  
*Victims Assistance Coordinator*  
*Diocese of Pittsburgh*

Ms. Beth Heidt-Kosizek  
*Safe Environment Coordinator*  
*Diocese of Grand Island*

Judge Michael Merz  
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*Safe Environment Coordinator*  
*Diocese of Grand Island*

The CPCYP meets during the months of March, June, September, and November. At two of those meetings, June and November, the CPCYP meets jointly with the NRB.

### The 2015 Anglophone Conference

Bishop Edward J. Burns with Dr. Francesco Cesareo, Chair of the National Review Board, Deacon Bernie Nojadera, executive director of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, and Ms. Mary Jane Doerr, associate director of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, attended the sixteenth Anglophone Conference in Rome, Italy, in June 2015. The episcopal conference of the United States and the Centre for Child Protection of the Gregorian University hosted the conference with the theme: *A Spiritual and Theological Approach*.

### New Bishops' Charter Orientation

The CPCYP has been asked to assist all bishops and eparchs, especially those appointed since the *Charter* was adopted in 2002 and revised in 2005 and 2011 to understand the obligations required of them

by the *Charter*. In response, the CPCYP prepared a program designed to address questions new bishops and eparchs may have regarding the *Charter* or the annual compliance audits. This orientation was held during the bishops' General Meeting in November of 2011 and has become an annual event, since it is critical to share with the new bishops not only the genesis of the wording of the *Charter* but also the spirit behind the commitments made in the *Charter*.

## AUDIT

### ARTICLE 9

The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* specifically created the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection (SCYP) and assigned to it three central tasks:

- To assist each diocese and eparchy (the Eastern Catholic equivalent of a diocese) in implementing Safe Environment programs designed to ensure necessary safety and security for all children as they participate in church and religious activities

- To develop an appropriate compliance audit mechanism to assist the bishops and eparchies in adhering to the responsibilities set forth in the *Charter*
- To prepare a public, annual report describing the compliance of each diocese/eparchy with the *Charter's* provisions

Taking into account the financial and other resources, as well as the population and demographics of the diocese/eparchy, the SCYP is a resource for dioceses/eparchies for implementing safe environment programs and for suggesting training and development of diocesan personnel responsible for child and youth protection programs.

The SCYP works closely with StoneBridge Business Partners, auditors, to ensure that an appropriate audit mechanism to determine the compliance of the responsibilities set forth in the *Charter* is in place. The instrument used in the 2015 audit requested access to source documents, allowing the auditors to give unqualified findings. The majority of the audit instrument remained unchanged from past audit instruments.

The SCYP's support of the dioceses includes sponsoring web-based communities to assist the missions of Victim Assistance Coordinators, Safe Environment Coordinators, and Diocesan Review Boards; preparing resource materials extracted from the audits; creating materials to assist in both healing and *Charter* compliance; and providing resources for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. In keeping with the conference emphasis on collaboration, during the month of October, SCYP also focuses on the sanctity and dignity of human life as it joins with the Office of Pro-Life Activities in offering prayers and reflections. The issue of child abuse/child sexual abuse is most certainly a life issue in the full spectrum of protecting life from conception to natural death.

When invited, the SCYP staff will visit dioceses/eparchies and offer assistance. On a limited basis and as needed, the staff of the SCYP provides support to and referral of victims/survivors to resources that can aid them in their healing. Staff participates in a variety of collaboration efforts with other child serving organizations.

The fourth annual web-accessible *Charter* Implementation Training was held on October 5, 2015, with over 140 attendees. Bishop Edward J. Burns

gave a reflection on the *Charter*, reminding the group that when decisions need to be made the child needs to be of central importance. Other topics included the roots of the *Charter*, the important role of seminaries in child protection efforts, a review of the training modules from the Causes and Context Study, thoughts from a former auditor, and monitoring offenders during their healing and reconciliation.

The SCYP provides staff support for the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young (CPCYP), the National Review Board (NRB), and its committees. The SCYP provides monthly reports to the members of the CPCYP and the NRB. These reports reflect the administrative efforts of the SCYP within the USCCB, the external support by the SCYP to the (arch)dioceses/eparchies on *Charter*-related matters, and the work of the CPCYP and NRB as supported and facilitated by the SCYP.

During the audit period of July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015, the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection (SCYP) consisted of the following four staff members: Executive Director Deacon Bernie Nojadera, Associate Director Mary Jane Doerr, Executive Assistant Laura Garner, and Coordinator for Resources and Special Projects Drew Dillingham.

Deacon Bernie Nojadera, executive director, served as director of the Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults with the Diocese of San Jose, California, from 2002-2011. He was a pastoral associate at St. Mary Parish, Gilroy, California (1987-2002). He was awarded a bachelor of arts from St. Joseph College, Mountain View, California, in 1984; a master of social work specializing in health and mental health services from San Jose State University in 1991; and a Master of Arts in Theology from St. Patrick's Seminary and University, Menlo Park, California, in 2002. He was ordained a permanent deacon in 2008. He has been a member of the Diocese of San Jose Safe Environment Task Force, involved with the San Jose Police Department's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the County of Santa Clara Interfaith Clergy Task Force on the Prevention of Elder Abuse, and the County of Santa Clara Task Force on Suicide Prevention. He has worked as a clinical social worker for Santa Clara County Mental Health (1991-2000) and is a military veteran. He is married and has two children.

Mary Jane Doerr, associate director, holds a Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral Sciences from Nazareth College, Kalamazoo, and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University. She has more than twenty years' experience as an educator in the following roles: as a classroom teacher, an elementary school principal, and a college instructor. She joined the Diocese of Kalamazoo in 1994 where she worked in stewardship and development. In 2003, she was appointed Safe Environment Coordinator for the diocese and in 2006 was promoted to director of the Safe Environment Office. This role included Victim Assistance coordination and overseeing all compliance issues related to the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. She assumed the role of associate director in the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection in July 2008. She is the mother of two adult children.

Laura Garner, executive assistant, joined the staff of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection on January 3, 2011. From 2008 until 2011, Ms. Garner served as a staff assistant in the USCCB Office of the General Counsel. Ms. Garner holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Loyola College and a Master of Arts in Art Therapy from George Washington University. Before joining the USCCB, she worked at home as a medical transcriptionist while raising four children. She was also employed as a bank teller, paraprofessional, computer educator, and receptionist.

Drew Dillingham, office specialist, has served the conference since July 2013. Drew holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Arts in Public Policy from Stony Brook University, NY. He has been promoted twice since 2013 and is currently the coordinator of resources and special projects.

Additional information on the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection can be found via the following link: <http://www.usccb.org/about/child-and-youth-protection/who-we-are.cfm>.

## ARTICLE 10

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops established the National Review Board during their meeting in June of 2002. The functions of the board were revised slightly and reconfirmed in June of 2005 when the *Charter for the Protection of Children*

and *Young People* was revised. The purpose of the National Review Board is to collaborate with the USCCB in preventing the sexual abuse of minors by persons in the service of the Church in the United States. The membership of the National Review Board during the audit period was as follows:

The membership of the National Review Board during the audit period was as follows:

Dr. Francesco Cesareo, Chair

*Term expires June 2016*

Ms. Kathleen Asdorian

*Term expires June 2016*

Dr. Michael de Arellano

*Term expires June 2017*

Mr. Howard Healy

*Term expires June 2019*

Judge M. Katherine Huffman

*Term expires June 2018*

Mr. Michael Montelongo

*Term expires June 2016*

Ms. Nelle Moriarty

*Term expires June 2018*

Ms. D. Jean Ortega-Piron

*Term expires June 2019*

Dr. Fernando Ortiz

*Term expires June 2017*

Ms. Laura Rogers

*Term expires June 2017*

Mr. Donald Schmid

*Term expires June 2018*

Mr. Scott Wasserman

*Term expires June 2017*

Mr. Donald Wheeler

*Term expires June 2019*

The NRB officers and committees were as follows:

Chair: Francesco Cesareo, PhD

Vice Chair: Fernando Ortiz, PhD

Secretary: Ms. Kathleen Asdorian

Its four committees are:

- The Audit Committee, chaired by Mrs. Laura Rogers, continued its work of keeping the audit process updated and effective.

- The Research and Trends Committee, chaired by Dr. Michael de Arellano, moved forward in developing ways to measure the effectiveness of safe environment training for children and adults by enlisting the input of safe environment coordinators across the country.
- The Communications Committee, chaired by Ms. Nelle Moriarty, is developing ways to assist dioceses/eparchies in getting out to the faithful the progress the Church has made in combating child sexual abuse.
- The Nominations Committee, chaired by Ms. Kathleen Asdorian, elicited nominations of potential NRB candidates for terms beginning in 2016.

Additional information concerning the NRB can be found at: <http://www.usccb.org/about/child-and-youth-protection/the-national-review-board.cfm>.

## ARTICLE 11

President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, has shared a copy of this Annual Report with the Holy See.

## ARTICLE 12

The final six articles were developed to protect the faithful into the future.

Article 12 of the *Charter* calls for the education of children and those who minister to children about ways to create and maintain a safe environment for children and young people. For a diocese or eparchy to be considered compliant with Article 12, the bishop and his staff must be able to demonstrate that training programs exist, the bishop approves the programs, and the appropriate individuals have participated in the training. During our audits, we reviewed training program materials, letters of promulgation regarding the programs, and a database or other recordkeeping method by which a

diocese/eparchy tracks whether or not individuals have been trained.

The Diocese of Santa Rosa was found non-compliant with Article 12 for the 2015 audit period. Although the diocese may be providing training for the required categories of individuals, auditors could not accurately gauge participation by their parishes. Even though all others were deemed compliant with this article, there is still plenty of room for improvement. The implementation of Article 12 continues to be a challenge with respect to accurate reporting. Some database systems continue to be poorly managed, and the processes for collecting data from parish/school locations are inefficient or ineffective, resulting in incomplete or inaccurate data furnished to the auditors. During 2015, we recommended that eight dioceses/eparchies reassess the effectiveness of their databases and methods of tracking the safe environment training.

Another common issue that continues from prior audit years is the lack of a formal promulgation letter signed by the sitting bishop. Nine dioceses/eparchies visited this year were either unable to produce a promulgation letter as evidence of the current bishop's approval of the training programs used or provided a letter that was signed by a prior bishop. Three of the nine dioceses had a blanket letter that acknowledged the requirements for training but did not specifically name the programs that were approved for this purpose. We recommended that these dioceses consider issuing new promulgation letters that are signed by the current bishop and name the training materials approved, as these can change over time. For dioceses/eparchies that permit the use of various training programs across parish/school locations, the promulgation letter serves as a reference for parents, educators, catechists, directors of religious education, and others as to which programs the bishop deems to be in accord with Catholic moral principles.

We compiled the 2015 safe environment training data below, divided by category, from the 190 dioceses and eparchies that participated in either an on-site or data collection audit.

<b>Children</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Dioceses/eparchies participating	190	188	191	189	187
Total children	4,666,507	4,828,615	4,910,240	4,993,243	5,143,426
Total children trained	4,371,211	4,484,609	4,645,700	4,684,192	4,847,942
Percent trained	93.7%	92.9%	94.6%	93.8%	94.3%
Percent opted out	1.2%	1.0%	1.2%	1.5%	1.2%

The category labeled “Percent opted out” represents those children whose parents or guardians elected not to allow them to participate in a training session for various reasons. Parents and guardians are not required to explain their election to the dioceses and eparchies. However, materials should be sent home, and the parents are still expected to introduce the lessons to their children. There continues to be confusion among dioceses and eparchies this year in regard to which children are counted as trained/not trained when materials are provided to parents. Children are not considered trained if they are opted out or if the

diocese/eparchy relies on the parents to conduct the training. Even if the diocese/eparchy sent training materials home for the parents to use, there is no way to verify whether the parent presented the materials to their children. To count children as trained, the training must have been conducted by diocesan representatives or by public schools if the diocese/eparchy relies on them for the training. However, if the diocese/eparchy relies on the public schools to complete the training, we recommend that the bishop reviews the public school curriculum to ensure the training is adequate.

<b>Priests</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Total priests	36,158	35,470	36,131	38,199	38,374
Total priests trained	35,987	35,319	35,914	38,006	38,150
Percent trained	99.5%	99.6%	99.4%	99.5%	99.4%
<b>Deacons</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Total deacons	16,300	16,164	16,245	15,796	15,342
Total deacons trained	16,251	16,089	16,129	15,680	15,259
Percent trained	99.7%	99.5%	99.3%	99.3%	99.5%
<b>Candidates for Ordination</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Total candidates	6,577	6,602	6,458	6,372	6,474
Total candidates trained	6,473	6,503	6,360	6,232	6,385
Percent trained	98.4%	98.5%	98.5%	97.8%	98.6%
<b>Educators</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Total educators	164,628	161,669	168,782	168,067	159,689
Total educators trained	162,803	160,757	167,953	166,311	158,390
Percent trained	98.9%	99.4%	99.5%	99.0%	99.2%
<b>Other Employees</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Total other employees	269,090	256,668	257,222	258,380	249,133
Total other employees trained	260,356	250,087	251,146	249,918	240,180
Percent trained	96.8%	97.4%	97.6%	96.7%	96.4%



Volunteers	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total volunteers	1,976,248	1,971,201	1,936,983	1,920,001	1,850,149
Total volunteers trained	1,930,262	1,931,872	1,902,143	1,876,558	1,781,849
Percent trained	97.7%	98.0%	98.2%	97.7%	96.3%

It is important to note that the figures reported in the adult categories above represent individuals who have been trained at least once. The *Charter* does not require clergy, employees, and volunteers to renew safe environment training, but some dioceses and eparchies choose to require some form of refresher training. We noted a total of ninety-four dioceses and eparchies that required a refresher training as of June 30, 2015, and many more who stated they are in the process of creating a refresher course. Based upon our review of databases and discussions with diocesan personnel, it appears that some dioceses/eparchies are unable to separate those who are in need of the initial training versus the renewal training. Therefore, some of the gap above may be due to individuals requiring renewal training (as per individual diocesan policy), although they were initially trained in a previous period. We suggested to dioceses/eparchies that they try to track these separately to correctly identify the number of individuals at the end of the audit period that have not had any training at all. Because the *Charter* does not require a renewal training, those only needing the refresher should not be included as “not trained” at the end of the audit period.

A complete list of safe environment training programs used in dioceses and eparchies throughout the United States is posted on the SCYP website.

## ARTICLE 13

Article 13 of the *Charter* requires dioceses and eparchies to evaluate the background of clergy, candidates for ordination, educators, employees, and volunteers who minister to children and young people. Background checks are becoming a standard requirement of employment application processes across the United States, and the process at the diocesan/eparchial level is usually managed by human resources personnel. As a result, the implementation of Article 13 generally poses less of a challenge to dioceses and eparchies than the implementation of Article 12. The Diocese of Santa Rosa was also found non-compliant with respect to Article 13 for the 2015 audit period for the same reasons noted in Article 12 above.

As with Article 12, inefficient or poorly managed database systems have failed to keep accurate records of whether individuals working with minors have been background checked, and even if accurate numbers are available, some parishes still fail to submit their information in a timely manner. We noted six dioceses that should reassess the effectiveness of their database with respect to tracking background check data.

We compiled the 2015 background evaluation data below, divided by category, from the 190 dioceses and eparchies that participated in either an on-site or data collection audit.

Priests	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Dioceses/eparchies participating	190	188	191	189	187
Total priests	36,158	35,470	36,131	38,199	38,374
Total priests background checked	35,720	35,308	35,970	38,045	38,129
Percent checked	98.8%	99.5%	99.6%	99.6%	99.4%
Deacons	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total deacons	16,300	16,164	16,245	15,796	15,342
Total deacons background checked	16,257	16,006	16,199	15,695	15,291
Percent checked	99.7%	99.0%	99.7%	99.4%	99.7%

<b>Educators</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Total educators	164,628	161,669	168,782	168,067	159,689
Total educators background checked	158,556	160,273	168,013	164,935	158,855
Percent checked	96.3%	99.1%	99.5%	98.1%	99.5%
<b>Other Employees</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Total other employees	269,090	256,668	257,222	258,380	249,133
Total other employees background checked	263,690	251,189	253,587	250,092	241,063
Percent checked	98.0%	97.9%	98.6%	96.8%	96.8%
<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Total volunteers	1,976,248	1,971,201	1,936,983	1,920,001	1,850,149
Total volunteers background checked	1,935,310	1,931,612	1,898,136	1,861,160	1,790,178
Percent checked	97.9%	98.0%	98.0%	96.9%	96.8%

It is important to note that these figures represent individuals who have been checked at least once. The *Charter* is silent as to the frequency of screening, but many dioceses and eparchies have begun rescreening their clergy, employees, and volunteers. A few dioceses rescreen annually, and others rescreen somewhere between every two to ten years. As in years past, we recommended to dioceses and eparchies that do not rescreen that they should consider it. Our standard recommendation is every five to seven years if subsequent arrest reports are not provided by the background check agencies or government. As previously explained for Article 12, some of the gap between the total number of individuals and total checked is due to initial screenings and re-screenings. As more and more dioceses/eparchies begin to require renewals of training and background checks, we recommended that they should attempt to track this separately for reporting purposes.

Article 13 also addresses the policies and procedures in place for obtaining necessary suitability information about priests or deacons who are visiting from other dioceses. To determine compliance, we requested copies of letters of suitability received during the period, and inquired as to the diocese/eparchy's retention policy for those letters. Some dioceses and eparchies retain the letters indefinitely; others discard the letters as soon as the visiting

cleric's stay has expired. We noted two dioceses that did not have a well-defined policy regarding the collection and retention of letters of suitability. Our parish audits revealed that both of these dioceses had pastors who were unclear about diocesan requirements for collection and retention of letters of suitability. We issued Management Letters to both suggesting that the diocese clearly define the policies and procedures for obtaining letters and ensure all parishes are aware of the requirements.

## ARTICLE 14

Article 14 governs the relocation of accused clerics between dioceses. Before clerics who have been accused of sexual abuse of a minor can relocate for residence, the cleric's home bishop must communicate suitability status to the receiving bishop. To assess compliance with Article 14, we reviewed diocesan/eparchial policies to understand the procedures for receiving transferred and visiting priests and deacons. We also inquired of the appropriate personnel to confirm that practice was consistent with the policy. Although no compliance issues were noted with respect to Article 14, there seemed to be some confusion around what Article 14 requires. Many dioceses were responding to the question with an answer of "not applicable" because they have never had the situation arise. However, based upon our

# 2015 Annual Report: Findings and Recommendations

review of the diocesan/eparchial policies and procedures, we confirmed there was a policy in place. We issued Management Letter comments to four dioceses that did not have a written policy in place regarding the transfer of clergy who committed an act of sexual abuse. We also issued a comment to one other diocese as their policy was not clear on the issue.

## ARTICLE 15

Article 15 has two components, only one of which is subject to our audit. That requirement is for bishops to have periodic meetings with the Major Superiors of Men whose clerics are serving within a diocese or eparchy. The purpose of these meetings is to determine each party's role and responsibilities in the event that an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor is brought against a religious order cleric. Although the *Charter* does not define "periodic," we recommend that bishops meet or otherwise correspond with the Major Superiors annually and that the bishop document these meetings. We noted three dioceses that did not communicate with the religious orders during the audit period (for various reasons) and one other diocese that did not document these meetings. Management Letter comments were issued to all of them, which stressed the importance of documenting procedures for handling these cases in the event that an allegation is brought against a religious order cleric.

## ARTICLE 16

Article 16 requires dioceses and eparchies to cooperate with other organizations, especially within their communities, to conduct research in the area of child sexual abuse. At minimum, dioceses and eparchies should participate in the annual Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) survey, the results of which are included in the SCYP's Annual Report.

We inquired of dioceses and eparchies as to which other churches and ecclesial communities, religious bodies, or institutions of learning they worked with in the area of child abuse prevention. We noted that most of the collaborative efforts made were more reactive than proactive. Most dioceses and eparchies are not actively reaching out to other

organizations to advance the prevention of sexual abuse of minors. Instead, diocesan personnel stated that they would cooperate with organizations, if any asked. However, all dioceses audited participated in the 2015 CARA survey.

## ARTICLE 17

Article 17 covers the formation of clergy, from seminary to retirement. Compliance with this article was assessed by interviewing diocesan/eparchial personnel responsible for the formation of clergy and candidates for ordination and by reviewing supporting documentation, such as registration forms for clergy seminaries, textbooks used for the formation of candidates for the permanent diaconate, and brochures advertising priestly retreats. Although all dioceses and eparchies audited during 2015 were found compliant with Article 17, there appears to be some room for improvement with regard to the amount of ongoing formation that is being offered. We noted some dioceses/eparchies that had a very formal process in place with many opportunities for the clergy. We also noted some dioceses/eparchies that struggled with staffing and funding problems and were also dealing with lack of attendance issues. Of the dioceses/eparchies visited in 2015, we noted one diocese whose ongoing formation program for priests was severely lacking and another that had very poor attendance from the clergy. We issued Management Letter comments to both of these dioceses. While the dioceses/eparchies understood the importance of these programs, they were working to determine how to implement them in an effective and cost-conscious manner.

## OTHER FINDINGS

Below are general issues noted during our audits that do not fall under a specific article but may represent weaknesses in any diocese/eparchy's *Charter* implementation program:

- We continued to see personnel listed in diocesan/eparchial directories using personal e-mail addresses to conduct parish or other church-related activities, even though the diocese or eparchy provided those individuals with a



diocesan or parish sponsored e-mail address. We recommend that dioceses/eparchies require the use of “official” e-mail addresses for parish or other church activities to allow for better oversight of electronic communications and full transparency.

- Dioceses and eparchies should consider having a full-time staff member dedicated to safe environment activities, both at the chancery or pastoral center and at larger parish locations. We noted that when dioceses/eparchies did not have a full-time individual responsible for the safe environment program components, compliance efforts lacked effectiveness and efficiency. While we understand that staffing shortages and financial concerns may be of issue for most dioceses/eparchies, it is important to have someone devoted to these responsibilities and available to parishes and schools to answer any questions.
- While it is important to have staff dedicated to the safe environment activities, it is also important for other staff to be cross-trained on this position as well. In the event that someone is absent for a lengthy period of time, the dioceses/eparchies should ensure they have someone who is capable of fulfilling the day-to-day operations.
- We recommend that dioceses/eparchies look for ways to supplement their existing safe environment training materials to reflect any developments in technology, social media, bullying, or other issues currently faced by the community.

## OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations apply to all dioceses and eparchies and are simply suggestions for improving existing *Charter* compliance programs.

- We continue to encourage dioceses and eparchies to participate in parish audits, especially those that do not conduct their own self-audits.
- We recommend that dioceses and eparchies regularly assess the quality and performance

of databases used for recordkeeping, especially records that relate to maintaining a safe environment for children and youth. Dioceses and eparchies should be willing to commit the necessary resources to allow for efficient and effective tracking of compliance for both active and inactive employees and volunteers.

- We continue to see dioceses/eparchies struggle with receiving timely and accurate information from the parishes and schools related to compliance with training and background check requirements. As mentioned in the “Findings & Recommendations” section, we suggest that the dioceses and eparchies reinforce the importance of the program and compliance with the *Charter* requirements at the parish/school level.
- We recommend that dioceses/eparchies use other dioceses/eparchies as a resource for questions related to *Charter* requirements. Other dioceses/eparchies may have suggestions or information that could be valuable to each diocese/eparchy. Although each diocese/eparchy does things differently, they are all trying to achieve the same result.
- We noted a significant number of dioceses and eparchies that did not implement certain recommendations we made during our last on-site visit. While we understand that the Management Letter comments are *suggestions* and not *requirements*, we were hopeful that dioceses/eparchies would make the effort to improve the implementation and management of the *Charter*.
- We continually observe dioceses and eparchies with outdated policies and procedures. As mentioned in the Findings and Recommendations section, we suggested that dioceses and eparchies take the time to review their policies to ensure they are up to date, especially if there is a new bishop appointed to the diocese/eparchy. As written into Article 2, reviewing policies and procedures is one of the duties of the diocesan review board. They should be asked to assist in this process.

## CONCLUSION

The Catholic Church in the United States continues to handle the issue of sexual abuse of minors by clergy effectively through the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. By authorizing these audits each year, the bishops and eparchs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops demonstrate their unyielding commitment to the protection of children and the

prevention of sexual abuse of the vulnerable among us. Prevention is made possible by the commitment and effort of the personnel involved in the *Charter's* implementation. We recognize the dedication of these individuals and we are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with them throughout the year. Finally, we thank the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, the National Review Board, and the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection for their ongoing support of the audit process and our own efforts.

## **APPENDIX I: DIOCESES/EPARCHIES PARTICIPATING IN STONEBRIDGE PARISH AUDITS FOR 2015**

- Archdiocese of Anchorage
- Diocese of Arlington
- Archdiocese of Atlanta
- Diocese of Baker
- Archdiocese of Baltimore
- Diocese of Belleville
- Diocese of Biloxi
- Diocese of Colorado Springs
- Diocese of Covington
- Diocese of Grand Island
- Diocese of Honolulu
- Archdiocese of Indianapolis
- Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS
- Diocese of La Crosse
- Diocese of Las Cruces
- Archdiocese of Los Angeles
- Diocese of Manchester
- Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- Diocese of New Ulm
- Diocese of Ogdensburg
- Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
- Diocese of Owensboro
- Diocese of Portland, ME
- Diocese of Rochester
- Diocese of San Bernardino
- Diocese of Savannah
- Diocese of St. Augustine
- Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
- Diocese of Superior
- Diocese of Toledo
- Diocese of Tucson

## **APPENDIX II: ON-SITE AUDITS PERFORMED BY STONEBRIDGE DURING 2015**

- Diocese of Amarillo
- Archdiocese of Anchorage
- Diocese of Arlington
- Archdiocese of Atlanta
- Diocese of Baker
- Archdiocese of Baltimore
- Diocese of Belleville
- Diocese of Biloxi
- Diocese of Boise
- Diocese of Bridgeport
- Diocese of Brooklyn
- Diocese of Camden
- Diocese of Colorado Springs
- Diocese of Corpus Christi
- Diocese of Covington
- Diocese of Crookston
- Diocese of Dodge City
- Diocese of Fairbanks
- Diocese of Fresno
- Diocese of Grand Island
- Diocese of Great Falls-Billings
- Diocese of Greensburg
- Diocese of Honolulu
- Archdiocese of Indianapolis
- Diocese of Juneau
- Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS
- Diocese of La Crosse
- Diocese of Lafayette, LA
- Diocese of Lake Charles
- Diocese of Lansing
- Diocese of Laredo
- Diocese of Las Cruces
- Diocese of Little Rock
- Archdiocese of Los Angeles
- Archdiocese of Louisville
- Diocese of Manchester
- Diocese of Memphis
- Diocese of Metuchen
- Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- Archdiocese of New Orleans
- Diocese of New Ulm
- Diocese of Ogdensburg
- Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
- Diocese of Orlando
- Diocese of Owensboro
- Byzantine Eparchy of Passaic of the Ruthenians
- Diocese of Paterson
- Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- Diocese of Portland, ME
- Diocese of Raleigh
- Diocese of Rochester
- Diocese of Sacramento
- Diocese of Saginaw
- Diocese of Salina
- Diocese of San Bernardino
- Archdiocese of San Francisco
- Archdiocese of Santa Fe
- Diocese of Santa Rosa
- Diocese of Savannah
- Archdiocese of Seattle
- Diocese of St. Augustine
- Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
- Diocese of St. Thomas, VI
- Diocese of Steubenville
- Diocese of Superior
- Diocese of Toledo
- Diocese of Tucson
- Diocese of Wilmington
- Diocese of Winona
- Diocese of Worcester

# SECTION II

2015



# CHAPTER THREE

## 2015 CARA SURVEY OF ALLEGATIONS AND COSTS

### A SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION, UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

#### INTRODUCTION

**A**t their fall General Assembly in November 2004, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to design and conduct an annual survey of all the dioceses and eparchies whose bishops or eparchs are members of the USCCB. The purpose of this survey is to collect information on new allegations of sexual abuse of minors and the clergy against whom these allegations were made. The survey also gathers information on the amount of money dioceses and eparchies have expended as a result of allegations as well as the amount they have paid for child protection efforts. The national level aggregate results from this survey for each calendar year are prepared for the USCCB and reported in its *Annual Report on the Implementation of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.”* A complete set of the aggregate results for ten years (2004 to 2013) is available on the USCCB website.

Beginning in 2014, the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection changed the reporting period for this survey to coincide with the July 1–June 30 reporting period that is used by dioceses and eparchies for their annual audits. Since that time,

the annual survey of allegations and costs captures all allegations reported to dioceses and eparchies between July 1 and June 30. This year’s survey, the *2015 Survey of Allegations and Costs*, covers the period between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015. Where appropriate, this report presents data in tables for audit year 2015 compared to audit year 2014 (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014). For discussion of previous trends in the data, refer to the *2013 Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs* as reported in the *2013 Annual Report on the Implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, published by the USCCB Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection.

The questionnaire for the *2015 Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs* was designed by CARA in consultation with the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and was nearly identical to the versions used from 2004 to 2014. As in previous years, CARA prepared an online version of the survey and hosted it on the CARA website. Bishops and eparchs received information about the process for completing the survey in their mid-August correspondence from the USCCB and were asked to provide the name of the contact person who would complete the survey. The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) also invited major superiors of religious institutes of men to complete a similar survey for their congregations, provinces, or monasteries. For the first time this year, religious institutes of brothers also participated in the survey of men’s institutes.



CARA completed data collection for the 2015 annual survey on November 20, 2015. All 196 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB completed the survey, for a response rate of 100 percent. A total of 182 of the 236 religious institutes that belong to CMSM responded to the survey, for a response rate of 77 percent. The overall response rate for dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes was 88 percent, about the same response rate as in previous years for this survey. CARA then prepared the national level summary tables and graphs of the findings for the period from July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015.

## DIOCESES AND EPARCHIES

### The Data Collection Process

Dioceses and eparchies began submitting their data for the 2015 survey in September 2015. CARA and the secretariat contacted every diocese or eparchy that had not sent in a contact name by late September, 2015 to obtain the name of a contact person to complete the survey. CARA and the Secretariat sent multiple e-mail and phone reminders to these contact persons to encourage a high response rate.

By November 20, 2015, all of the 196 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB had responded to the survey, for a response rate of 100 percent. The participation rate among dioceses and eparchies has been nearly universal each year of this survey; starting at 93 percent in 2004 and 94 percent in 2005, at 99 percent from 2006 to 2014, and at 100 percent for the first time this year.

A copy of the survey instrument for dioceses and eparchies is included in this report in Appendix B.

### Credible Allegations Received by Dioceses and Eparchies

As is shown in Table 1, the responding dioceses and eparchies reported that between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, they received 321 new credible

allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a diocesan or eparchial priest or deacon. These allegations were made by 314 individuals against 227 priests or deacons. Of the 321 new allegations reported during this reporting period (July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015), four allegations (1 percent) involved children under the age of eighteen in 2015. Nearly all of the other allegations were made by adults who are alleging abuse when they were minors.

**Table 1. New Credible Allegations Received by Dioceses and Eparchies**

	2014	2015	Change (+/-) 2014-2015	Percentage Change
Victims	291	314	+23	+8%
Allegations	294	321	+25	+9%
Offenders	211	227	+16	+8%

Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2015

Compared to the previous year (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014), the numbers of victims, allegations, and offenders reported for July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015 represent an 8 percent increase in victims and offenders and a 9 percent increase in allegations. Some of the increase is due to bankruptcy proceedings in a few dioceses.

### Determination of Credibility

Every diocese and eparchy follows a process to determine the credibility of any allegation of clergy sexual abuse, as set forth in canon law and the *Charter for the Protections of Children and Young People*. Table 2 presents the number of new allegations that were unsubstantiated or proven to be false between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015. There were 140 new allegations received by dioceses or eparchies between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015 that were unsubstantiated or determined to be false by June 30, 2015. In addition, forty allegations received prior to July 1, 2014, were unsubstantiated or determined to be false between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015.

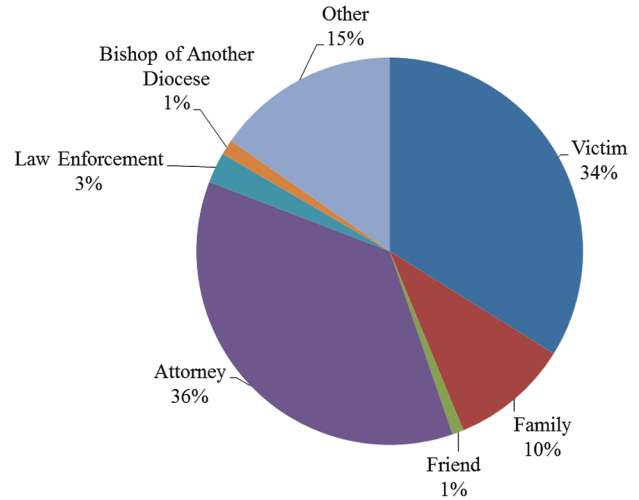
**Table 2. Unsubstantiated or False Allegations Reported by Dioceses and Eparchies**

	2014	2015	Change (+/-) 2014-2015	Percentage Change
New allegations made during that year (July 1 to June 30) that were unsubstantiated or proven false	133	140	+7	+5%
Allegations made before that year that were unsubstantiated or proven false during that audit year	50	40	-10	-20%

Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2015

Figure 1 illustrates the way in which the 321 new credible allegations of abuse were reported to the dioceses or eparchies between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015. One-third of new allegations were reported by the victim (34 percent), just over another third (36 percent) were reported by an attorney, one in ten (10 percent) was made by a family member of a victim, and one in seven (15 percent) was made by an “other” source.

**Figure 1. Method of Reporting Allegations of Abuse: Dioceses and Eparchies**

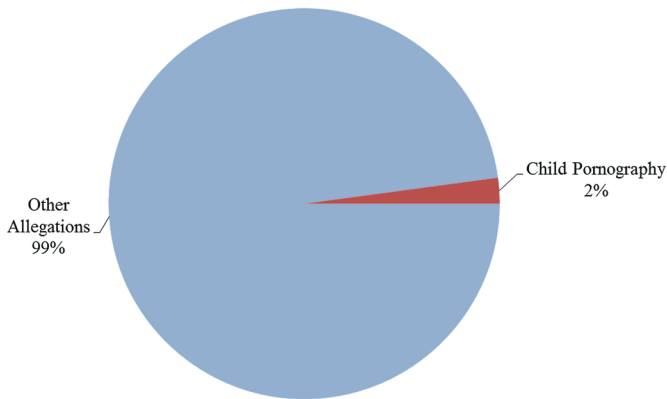


Source: 2015 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Compared to year 2014 (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014), there were fewer allegations reported by victims (34 percent compared to 50 percent) and more reported by attorneys (36 percent compared to 32 percent) or by some “other” source (15 percent compared to 5 percent).

Figure 2 presents the percentage of all new allegations of abuse that were cases involving solely child pornography. Of the 321 total allegations from July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015, seven allegations involved child pornography.

**Figure 2. Percentage of Allegations Involving Only Child Pornography: Dioceses and Eparchies**



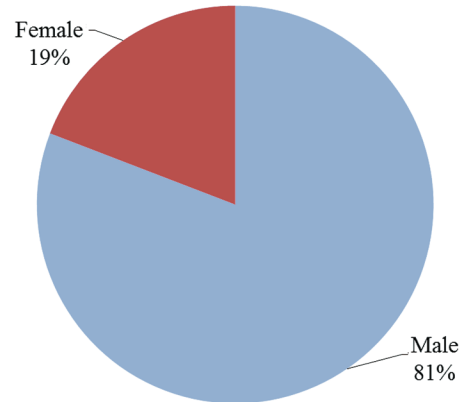
Source: 2015 Survey of Allegations and Costs

The percentages in Figure 2 are similar to those reported for the previous year (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014), where three allegations (or 1 percent) involved solely child pornography.

**Victims, Offenses, and Offenders**

The sex of one of the 314 alleged victims reported between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, was not identified in the allegation. Among those for whom the sex of the victim was reported, 81 percent (253 victims) were male and 19 percent (60 victims) were female. This proportion is illustrated in Figure 3.

**Figure 3. Sex of Abuse Victim: Dioceses and Eparchies**

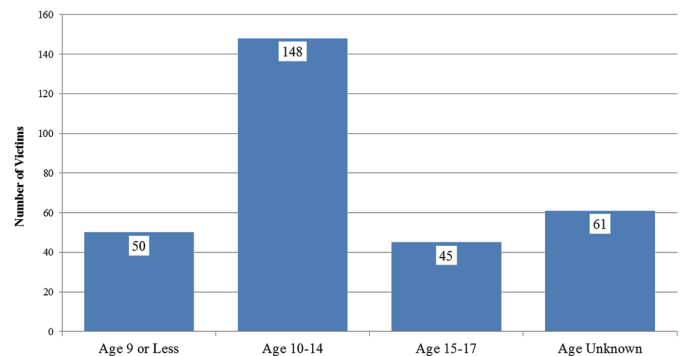


Source: 2015 Survey of Allegations and Costs

The percentages reported for year 2015 in Figure 3 differ slightly from those reported for year 2014 (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014), where 75 percent of the victims were male and 25 percent were female.

Half of victims (49 percent) were between the ages of ten and fourteen years old when the alleged abuse began. About the same proportion were either under age ten (16 percent) or between the ages of fifteen and seventeen (15 percent). The age could not be determined for two-tenths of victims (20 percent). Figure 4 presents the distribution of victims by age at the time the alleged abuse began.

**Figure 4. Age of Victim When Abuse Began: Dioceses and Eparchies**

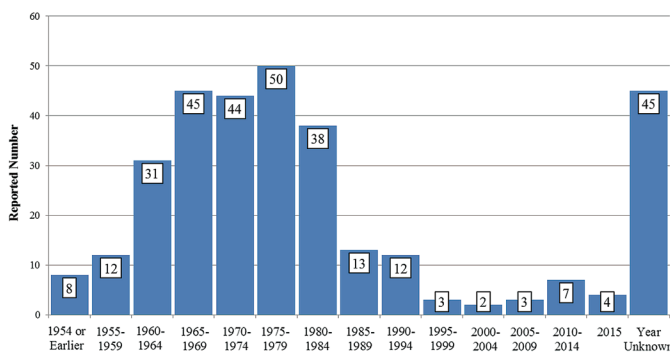


Source: 2015 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Except for the proportion of victims of unknown ages, the percentages in Figure 4 for year 2015 are similar to those reported for year 2014 (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014). During that time period, 50 percent of the alleged abuse occurred when the victims were between the ages of ten and fourteen years old, 21 percent when they were between the ages of fifteen and seventeen, and 20 percent when they were under age ten. For 10 percent of the victims, the age when the alleged abuse occurred could not be determined for year 2014.

Figure 5 shows the years in which the abuse reported between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, was alleged to have occurred or begun. Two-thirds of new allegations (66 percent) occurred or began between 1960 and 1984. The most common time period for allegations reported was 1975-1979 (fifty allegations), followed by 1965-1969 (45 allegations) and 1970-1974 (forty-four allegations). For forty-five of the new allegations (14 percent) reported between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, no time frame for the alleged abuse could be determined by the allegation.

**Figure 5. Year Alleged Offense Occurred or Began: Dioceses and Eparchies**

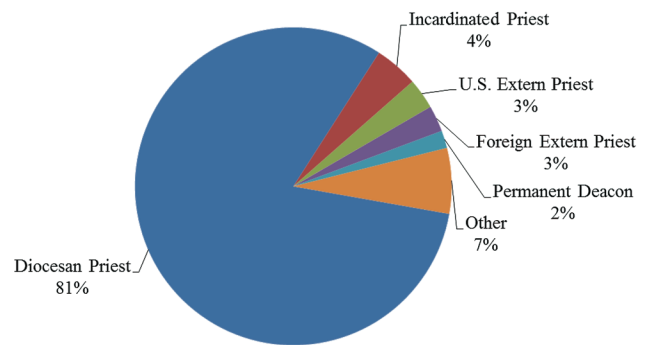


Source: 2015 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Proportionately, the numbers reported in Figure 5 for year 2015 are similar to those reported for year 2014 (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014). For that time period, 70 percent of alleged offenses occurred or began between 1960 and 1984. The largest difference was for the year unknown category, with just 5 percent of the allegations reported for year 2014 occurring or beginning in an unknown year.

Of the 227 diocesan or eparchial priests or deacons that were identified in new allegations between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, four-fifths (81 percent) had been ordained for the diocese or eparchy in which the abuse was alleged to have occurred. At the time of the alleged abuse, 4 percent of alleged perpetrators were priests from outside the diocese who were incardinated into that diocese or eparchy and 6 percent were extern priests (3 percent from another US diocese and 3 percent from a diocese outside the United States) who were serving in the diocese temporarily. Just four of the alleged perpetrators (2 percent) identified in new allegations were permanent deacons. Seven percent of alleged perpetrators were classified as “other,” most commonly because they were either unnamed in the allegation or their name was unknown to the diocese or eparchy. Figure 6 displays the ecclesial status of offenders at the time of the alleged offense.

**Figure 6. Ecclesial Status of Alleged Perpetrator: Dioceses and Eparchies**



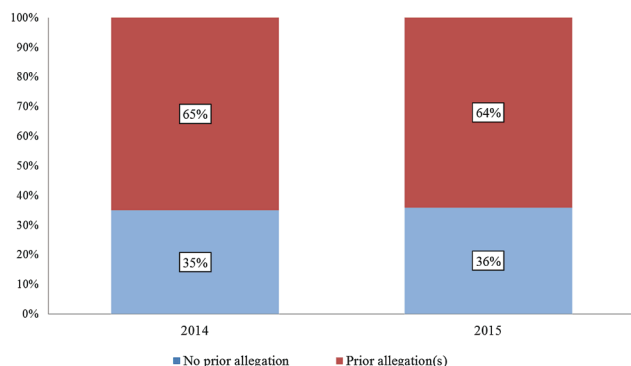
Source: 2015 Survey of Allegations and Costs

The percentages in Figure 6 for year 2015 are very similar to those reported for year 2014 (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014), where 83 percent of alleged perpetrators were priests who had been ordained for the diocese or eparchy in which the abuse was alleged to have occurred. All other categories reported for that time period represented 1 to 5 percent of alleged perpetrators, similar to the percentages reported in Figure 6.

Similar to what was reported for the July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014, time period, almost two-thirds (64 percent) of the 227 priests and deacons identified

as alleged offenders between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, had already been identified in prior allegations. Figure 7 depicts the proportion that had prior allegations.

**Figure 7. Percentage of Alleged Perpetrators with Prior Allegations: Dioceses and Eparchies**



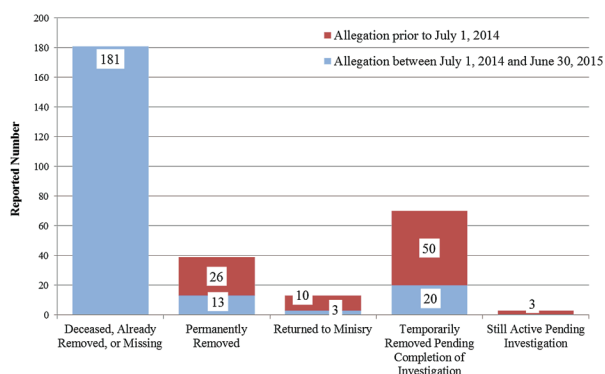
Source: Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2015

Four-fifths of alleged offenders (80 percent) identified between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing. Another thirteen priests or deacons (6 percent) identified during year 2015 were permanently removed from ministry during that time. In addition to the thirteen offenders who were permanently removed from ministry between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, another twenty-six priests or deacons who had been identified in allegations of abuse *before* July 1, 2014, were permanently removed from ministry between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015.

Ten priests or deacons were returned to ministry between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, based on the resolution of allegations. In addition, fifty

priests or deacons have been temporarily removed from ministry pending completion of an investigation. Notwithstanding the year in which the abuse was reported, three diocesan and eparchial clergy remain in active ministry pending a preliminary investigation of an allegation. Figure 8 shows the current status of alleged offenders.

**Figure 8. Current Status of Alleged Perpetrators: Dioceses and Eparchies**



Source: 2015 Survey of Allegations and Costs

## Costs to Dioceses and Eparchies

Dioceses and eparchies that responded to the survey and reported costs related to allegations paid out \$141,283,794 between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015 for costs related to allegations. This includes payments for allegations reported in previous years. Thirty-eight responding dioceses and eparchies reported no expenditures during this time period related to allegations of sexual abuse of a minor. Table 3 presents payments by dioceses and eparchies according to several categories of allegation-related expenses.

**Table 3. Costs Related to Allegations by Dioceses and Eparchies**

	Settlements	Therapy for Victims	Support for Offenders	Attorneys' Fees	Other Costs	GRAND TOTAL
<b>2014</b>	\$56,987,635	\$7,176,376	\$12,281,089	\$26,163,298	\$3,890,782	<b>\$106,499,180</b>
<b>2015</b>	\$87,067,257	\$8,754,747	\$11,500,539	\$30,148,535	\$3,812,716	<b>\$141,283,794</b>
<b>Change (+/-)</b>						
<b>2014-2015</b>	\$30,079,622	\$1,578,371	-\$780,550	\$3,985,237	-\$78,066	<b>\$34,784,614</b>

Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2015



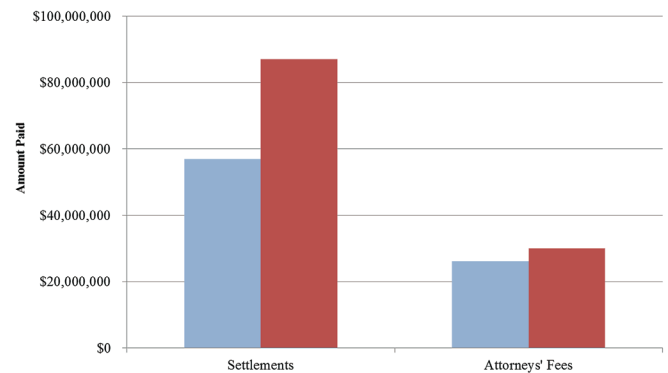
More than three-fifths of the payments made by dioceses and eparchies between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, (62 percent) were for settlements to victims. Attorneys' fees constituted one-fifth (21 percent) of the total cost.<sup>1</sup> Support for offenders (including therapy, living expenses, legal expenses, etc.) amounted to another 8 percent of allegation-related costs (\$11,500,539). An additional 6 percent of the total cost was for payments for therapy (if not already included in the settlement) or other payments to victims.

Among the "other" allegation-related costs reported by dioceses and eparchies (\$3,812,716 or 3 percent) are payments for items such as investigations of allegations, ministry to survivors, litigation costs, mediation, monitoring services for offenders, communications and advertising, charitable assistance, diocesan review board expenses, canonical trials, and USCCB compliance audit costs.

As can be seen in Table 3, the total costs for year 2015 (\$141,283,794) is 33 percent higher than that reported for year 2014 (\$106,499,180). Most of that increase is due to an increase in the amount of settlements paid to victims.

Figure 9 displays the costs paid by dioceses and eparchies for settlements and for attorneys' fees for audit years 2014 and 2015. Compared to year 2014, settlements have increased by 53 percent and attorney's fees have increased by 15 percent.

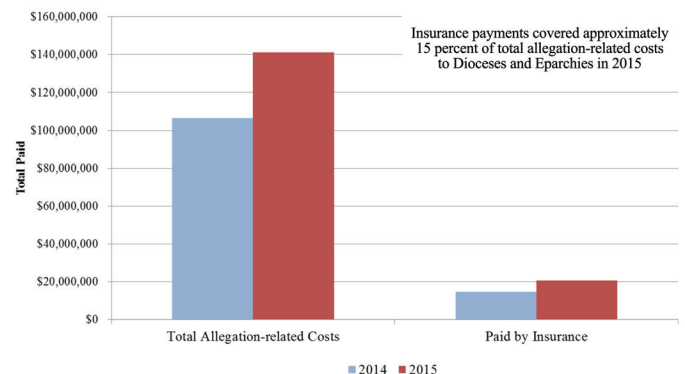
**Figure 9. Payments for Settlements and Attorney's Fees: Dioceses and Eparchies**



Source: Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2015

In Figure 10, the total allegation-related costs paid by dioceses and eparchies are shown as well as the approximate proportion of those costs that were covered by diocesan insurance. Diocesan insurance payments covered \$20,573,243 (15 percent) of the total allegation-related costs paid by dioceses and eparchies between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015. By comparison, insurance paid for 14 percent of the total allegation-related costs paid by dioceses and eparchies during year 2014 (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014).

**Figure 10. Proportion of Total Allegation-Related Costs Paid by Insurance: Dioceses and Eparchies**



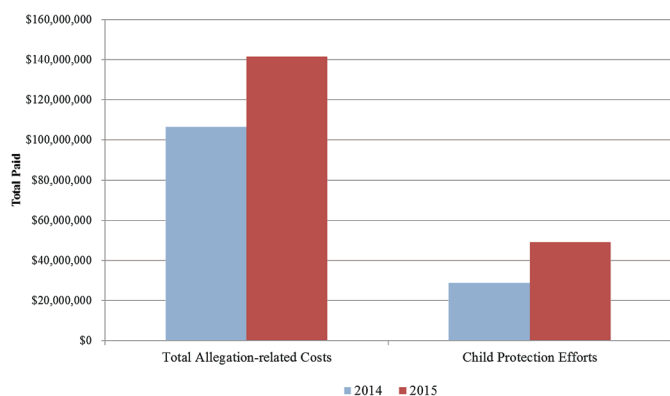
Source: Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2015

<sup>1</sup> Attorneys' fees include all costs for attorneys paid by dioceses and eparchies between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor.

In addition to allegation-related expenditures, at least \$49,066,005 was spent by dioceses and

eparchies for child protection efforts such as safe environment coordinators, training programs, and background checks. This represents a 70 percent increase from the amount reported for child protection efforts (\$28,868,934) for year 2014 (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014). Figure 11 compares the allegation-related costs to child protection expenditures paid by dioceses and eparchies in audit years 2014 and 2015.

**Figure 11. Total Allegation-Related Costs and Child Protection Efforts: Dioceses and Eparchies**



Source: *Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2015*

Adding together the total allegation-related costs and the amount spent on child protection efforts reported in year 2015, the total comes to \$190,349,799. This is a 41 percent increase over the \$135,368,114 spent during audit year 2014.

## RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES

The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) also encouraged the major superiors of religious institutes of men to complete a survey for their congregations, provinces, or monasteries. This year, for the first time, brother-only institutes were invited to participate in the survey. This survey was nearly identical to the survey for dioceses and eparchies and was also available online at the same site as the survey for dioceses and eparchies. This year's questionnaire included separate questions about perpetrators that asked about religious brothers as well as religious priests. CMSM sent a letter

and a copy of the survey to all member major superiors in early September 2015, requesting their participation. CARA and CMSM also sent several reminders by e-mail to major superiors to encourage them to respond. By December 2, 2015, CARA received responses from 182 of the 236 institutes that belong to CMSM, for a response rate of 77 percent. This is slightly higher than the response for previous years of this survey, which was 73 percent in 2014, 2012, and 2011, 72 percent in 2010, 73 percent in 2009, 2008, and 2007, 68 percent in 2006, 67 percent in 2005, and 71 percent in 2004.

A copy of the survey instrument for religious institutes is included at Appendix C.

## Credible Allegations Received by Religious Institutes

The responding religious institutes reported that between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, they received seventy-one new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor committed by a priest, brother, or deacon of the community. These allegations were made against forty-nine individuals who were priest, brother, or deacon members of the community at the time the offense was alleged to have occurred.

Table 4 presents these numbers. Of the 71 new allegations reported by religious institutes between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, one involved a child under the age of eighteen in 2015. The other allegations were made by adults who are alleging abuse when they were minors.

**Table 4. New Credible Allegations Received by Religious Institutes**

	2014	2015	Change (+/-) 2014-2015	Percentage Change
Victims	39	70	+31	79%
Allegations	40	71	+31	78%
Offenders	34	49	+15	44%

Source: *2015 Survey of Allegations and Costs*

Compared to year 2014 (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014), the numbers for year 2015 represent a 44 percent increase for the number of offenders and a 78-79 percent increase for the numbers of allegations and victims. This is the first year, though, that

religious brothers and their institutes have been included in the survey.

### Determination of Credibility

Every religious institute follows a process to determine the credibility of any allegation of clergy sexual abuse, as set forth in canon law and as advised in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. Table 5 presents the percentage of new allegations that were determined to be unsubstantiated or proven false between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015. Religious institutes reported thirty-nine new allegations that were unsubstantiated or proven to be false by June 30, 2015. In addition, eight allegations received prior to July 1, 2014, were unsubstantiated or proven to be false between June 30, 2014, and July 1, 2015.

**Table 5. Unsubstantiated or False Allegations Reported by Religious Institutes**

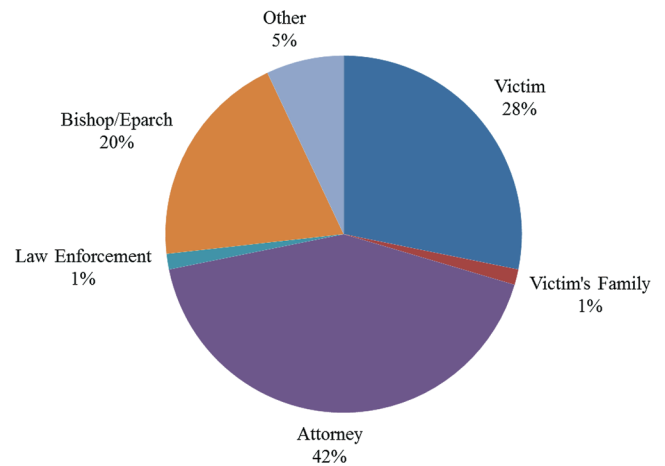
	2014	2015	Change (+/-) 2014-2015	Percentage Change
New allegations made during that year (July 1 to June 30) that were unsubstantiated or proven false	21	39	+18	+86%
Allegations made before that year that were unsubstantiated or proven false during that audit year	11	8	-3	-27%

Source: *Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2015*

Figure 12 displays the way in which the seventy-one new credible allegations of abuse were reported to the religious institutes between July 1,

2014, and June 30, 2015. Almost three-tenths of allegations (28 percent) were reported by the victim. Four in ten (42 percent) were reported by an attorney. A bishop or eparch, most typically from the diocese or eparchy in which the accused offender was serving at the time the alleged abuse occurred, reported 20 percent of allegations. One allegation each was reported by a family member or by law enforcement. All five of those reported by an “other” person or entity were reported by a diocese through bankruptcy court.

**Figure 12. Method of Reporting Allegations of Abuse: Religious Institutes**

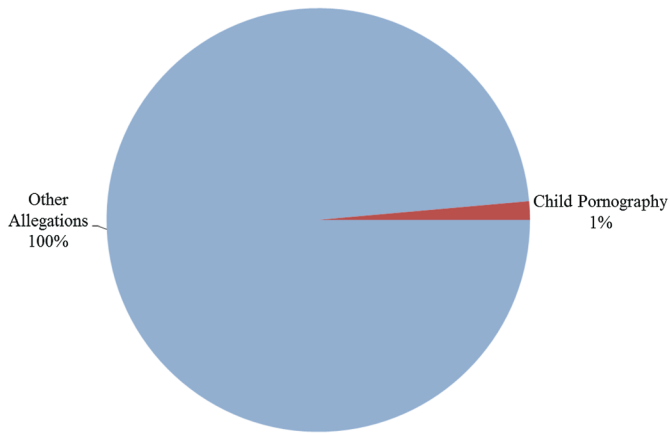


Source: *2015 Survey of Allegations and Costs*

The findings in Figure 12 for year 2015 are similar to those reported for year 2014 (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014). For year 2014, 41 percent of allegations were reported by an attorney, 33 percent by a victim, 18 percent by a bishop or eparch, 5 percent by law enforcement, and 3 percent by a friend of the victim.

One of the seventy-one new allegations was a case solely involving child pornography, as is shown in Figure 13.

**Figure 13. Percentage of Allegations Involving Only Child Pornography: Religious Institutes**



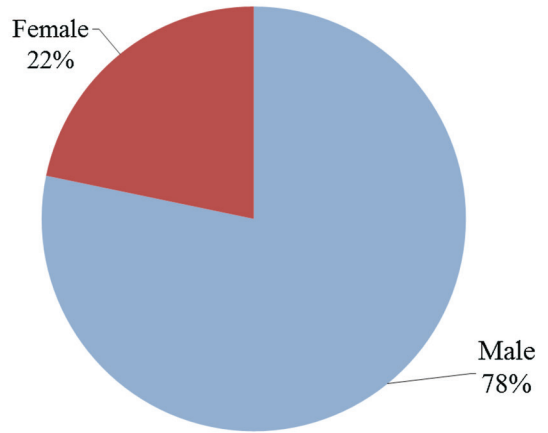
Source: 2015 Survey of Allegations and Costs

In year 2014 (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014), none of the allegations involved solely child pornography.

**Victims, Offenses, and Offenders**

The sex of two of the seventy-one alleged victims reported between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015 was not identified in the allegation. Among those for whom the sex of the victim was reported, nearly four-fifths were male (78 percent); just over two in ten (22 percent) were female. The proportion of male and female victims is displayed in Figure 14.

**Figure 14. Sex of Abuse Victim: Religious Institutes**

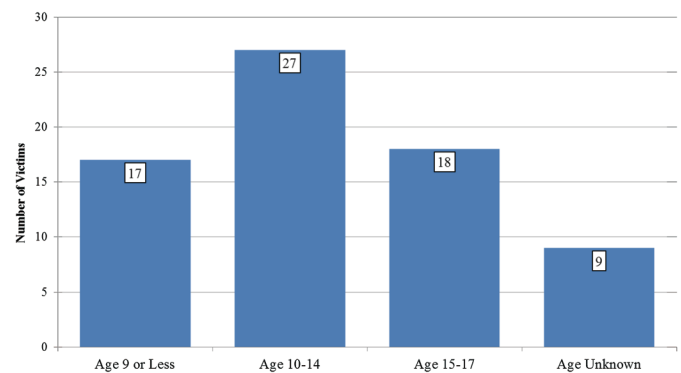


Source: 2015 Survey of Allegations and Costs

The percentages in Figure 14 differ somewhat from those for year 2014. Between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, 87 percent of the victims were male and 13 percent were female.

Nearly four-tenths of victims (38 percent) were ages ten to fourteen when the alleged abuse began. About a quarter each were between fifteen and seventeen (25 percent) or under age ten (24 percent). For about one in ten (13 percent) victims, the age could not be determined. Figure 15 presents the distribution of victims by age at the time the alleged abuse began.

**Figure 15. Age of Victim When Abuse Began: Religious Institutes**

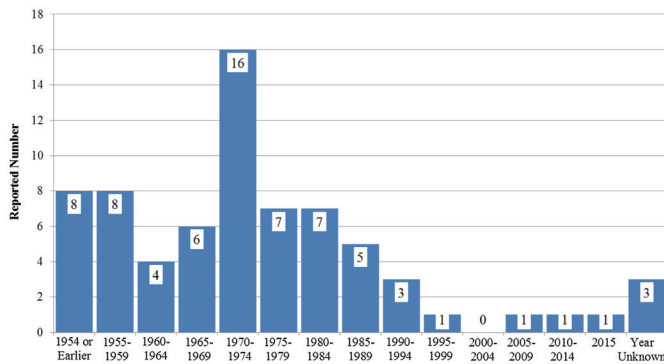


Source: 2015 Survey of Allegations and Costs

The proportions for the previous year differ some from those presented in Figure 15. Between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, 46 percent of the victims were between the ages of ten and fourteen, 26 percent were between fifteen and seventeen, 13 percent were under age ten, and 15 percent were of an unknown age.

Almost two-fifths of new allegations reported between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015 (37 percent) are alleged to have occurred or begun before 1970 and half (49 percent) were between 1970 and 1990. Religious institutes reported that 1975-1979 (16 allegations) was the most common time period for the alleged occurrences. Seven of the new allegations reported between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, (10 percent) were alleged to have occurred or begun since 1990. Figure 16 illustrates the years when the allegations reported in year 2015 were said to have occurred or begun.

**Figure 16. Year Alleged Offense Occurred or Began: Religious Institutes**



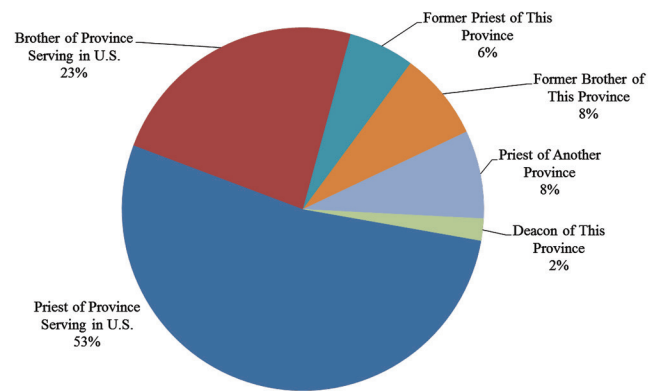
Source: 2015 Survey of Allegations and Costs

In the previous year (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014), 28 percent are alleged to have occurred or begun before 1970, 50 percent were between 1970 and 1990.

The survey for 2015 is the first to ask about both religious priests and religious brothers who were perpetrators. Figure 17 displays the ecclesial status of offenders at the time of the alleged abuse. Of the forty-nine religious priests and brothers against whom new allegations were made between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, just over half (53 percent) were priests of a US province of the religious

institute serving in the United States at the time the abuse was alleged to have occurred, about a quarter (23 percent) were religious brothers of a US province of the religious institute, and 2 percent were deacons of a US province of the religious institute. Almost one in ten each was either a former brother of the province (8 percent) or a priest of another province (8 percent) and a final one in twenty was a former priest of the province (6 percent).

**Figure 17. Ecclesial Status of Alleged Perpetrator: Religious Institutes**

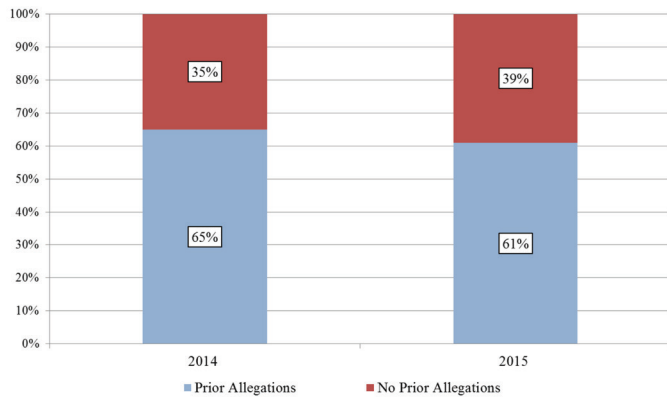


Source: 2015 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Three-fifths of the religious priests, brothers, and deacons against whom new allegations were made between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, had already been the subject of previous allegations in prior years. The other one-third (35 percent) had no allegations made against them prior to July 1, 2014. Figure 18 presents these proportions, which are similar to the proportions reported between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014.



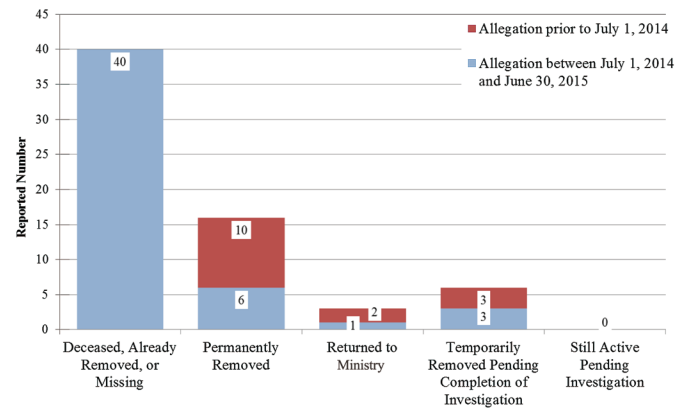
**Figure 18. Percentage of Alleged Perpetrators with Prior Allegations Dioceses and Eparchies**



Source: Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2015

As can be seen in Figure 19, more than four-fifths of the alleged offenders (81 percent) first identified between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, (forty priests) were deceased, had already been removed from ministry, or had already left the religious institute at the time the allegation was reported. Six alleged offenders (12 percent) identified in year 2015 were permanently removed during the time. Three religious priests, brothers, or deacons (6 percent) identified as alleged offenders between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, were temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations.

**Figure 19. Current Status of Alleged Perpetrators: Religious Institutes**



Source: 2015 Survey of Allegations and Costs

In addition to the six offenders identified between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, who were permanently removed from ministry during that period, another ten religious priests, brothers, and deacons who had been identified in allegations of abuse *before* July 1, 2014, were permanently removed from ministry between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015.

Three religious priests, brothers, or deacons were returned to ministry between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, based on the resolution of an allegation made during that period or earlier. In addition, three religious priests, brothers, and deacons who were identified prior to July 1, 2014, remain temporarily removed pending completion of an investigation. No priests are reported to be in active ministry pending a preliminary investigation of an allegation.

### Costs to Religious Institutes

The responding religious institutes reported paying \$12,335,750 between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, for costs related to allegations. This includes costs paid during this period for allegations reported in previous years. Table 6 presents the payments by religious institutes across several categories of allegation-related expenses.

**Table 6. Costs Related to Allegations by Religious Institutes**

	Settlements	Therapy for Victims	Support for Offenders	Attorneys' Fees	Other Costs	GRAND TOTAL
2014	\$5,950,438	\$570,721	\$3,121,958	\$2,611,220	\$326,130	\$12,580,467
2105	\$5,451,612	\$337,696	\$2,507,513	\$3,592,233	\$446,696	\$12,335,750
Change (+/-) 2014-2015	-\$498,826	-\$233,025	-\$614,445	\$981,013	\$120,566	-\$244,717

Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2015

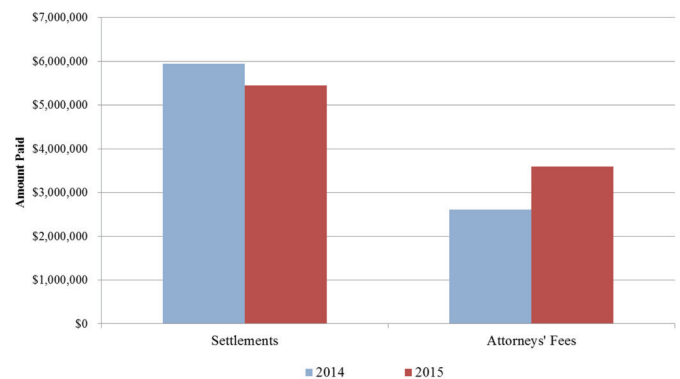
Just over two-fifths of the payments by religious institutes between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, (44 percent of all costs related to allegations reported by religious institutes) were for settlements to victims. Attorneys' fees were an additional \$3.6 million (29 percent). Support for offenders (including therapy, living expenses, legal expenses, etc.) amounted to \$2,507,513 (20 percent). An additional \$446,696 (3 percent) was for other payments to victims (other than settlements).

Payments designated as "other costs" reported by religious institutes (\$446,696 or 2 percent of the grand total) included victim outreach and assistance programs, mediation, consultants and investigators, travel expenses, training, administrative expenses, communication, and audit expenses.

Compared to the previous year (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014), total costs were down 2 percent for 2015. The area of greatest increased costs was attorneys' fees (a \$981,013 increase) and the area of greatest decreased costs was support for offenders (a \$614,445 decrease).

Figure 20 illustrates the settlement-related costs and attorneys' fees paid by religious institutes during audit years 2014 and 2015. Five religious institutes with relatively large settlements account for 78 percent of all settlement costs in year 2015. Compared to year 2014, settlement-related costs decreased by almost \$500,000, a decrease of 8 percent. As was noted above, attorneys' fees in year 2015 increased by almost \$1 million compared to year 2014, a 38 percent increase.

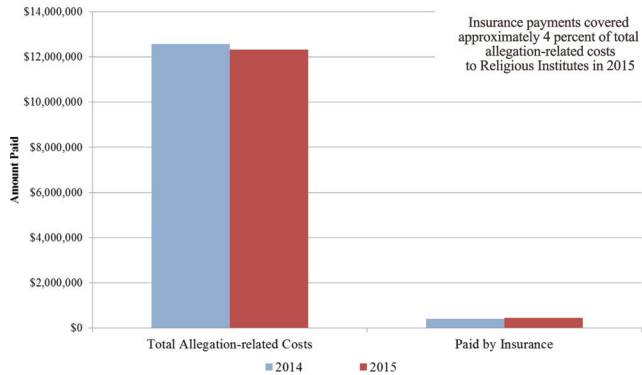
**Figure 20. Payments for Settlements and Attorneys' Fees: Religious Institutes**



Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2015

Religious institutes that responded to the question reported that 4 percent of the total costs related to allegations between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, were covered by religious institutes' insurance. Figure 21 displays the total allegation-related costs paid by religious institutes for audit years 2014 and 2015 as well as the costs that were covered by insurance. The percentage covered by insurance in year 2014 was similar, 3 percent.

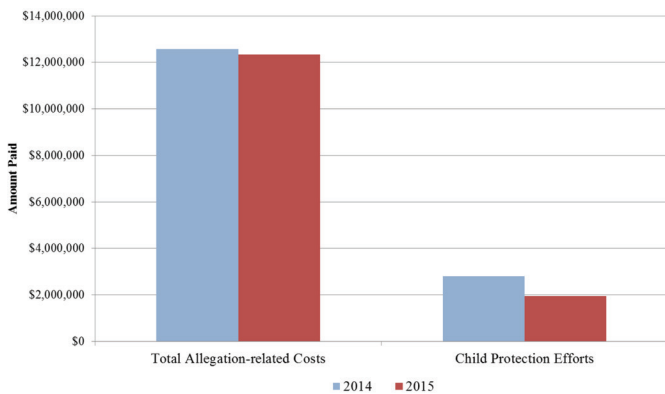
**Figure 21. Approximate Percentage of Total Paid by Insurance: Religious Institutes**



Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2015

In addition to allegation-related expenses, religious institutes spent almost two million dollars (\$1,955,832) for child protection efforts between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, such as training programs and background checks. This is a 30 percent reduction compared to the \$2,798,806 spent on child protection efforts in year 2014. Figure 22 compares the settlement-related costs and child protection expenditures paid by religious institutes in audit years 2014 and 2015.

**Figure 22. Total Allegation-Related Costs and Child Protection Efforts: Religious Institutes**



Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2015

Altogether, religious institutes reported \$14,291,582 in total costs related to child protection

efforts as well as costs related to allegations that were paid between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, less than the \$15,379,273 total reported by religious institutes in these two categories last year.

## TOTAL COMBINED RESPONSES OF DIOCESES, EPARCHIES, AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES

Tables 7, 8, and 9 present the combined total responses of dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes. These tables depict the total number of allegations, victims, offenders, and costs as reported by these groups for the period between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015. Dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes received 392 new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a diocesan, eparchial, or religious priest, religious brother, or deacon. These allegations were made by 384 individuals against 276 priests or deacons.

**Table 7. New Credible Allegations Received: Combined Totals**

	2014	2015	Change (+/-) 2014-2015	Percentage Change
Victims	330	384	+54	+16%
Allegations	334	392	+58	+17%
Offenders	245	276	+31	+13%

Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2015

Compared to year 2014 (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014), year 2015 saw a 13 to 17 percent increase in allegations, victims, and offenders. Some of this increase is due to bankruptcy proceedings in a few dioceses and some is due to the inclusion of religious brothers and brother-only religious institutes this year.

Dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes reported paying out \$153,619,544 for costs related to allegations between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015. This includes payments for allegations reported in previous years. Table 8 presents the payments across several categories of allegation-related expenses.

**Table 8. Costs Related to Allegations: Combined Totals**

	Settlements	Therapy for Victims	Support for Offenders	Attorneys' Fees	Other Costs	GRAND TOTAL
<b>2014</b>	\$62,938,073	\$7,747,097	\$15,403,047	\$28,774,518	\$4,216,912	<b>\$119,079,647</b>
<b>2015</b>	\$92,518,869	\$9,092,443	\$14,008,052	\$33,740,768	\$4,259,412	<b>\$153,619,544</b>
<b>Change (+/-) 2014-2015</b>	+\$29,580,796	+\$1,345,346	-\$1,394,995	+\$4,966,250	+\$42,500	+\$34,539,897
<b>Percentage Change</b>	+47%	+17%	-9%	+17%	+1%	+29%

Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2015

Three-fifths of the payments (60 percent) were for settlements to victims. Attorneys' fees accounted for an additional 22 percent. Support for offenders (including therapy, living expenses, legal expenses, etc.) amounted to 9 percent of these payments. An additional 6 percent were for payments for therapy for victims (if not included in the settlement). A final 3 percent of payments were for other allegation-related costs.

Dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes paid \$51,021,837 for child protection efforts between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015. Dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes expended a total of \$153,539,897 for costs related to allegations between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015. Table 9 presents the combined allegation-related costs and child protection expenditures paid by dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes.

**Table 9. Costs Related to Child Protection Efforts and to Allegations: Combined Totals**

	FY 2014	FY 2015
Total amounts for all child protection efforts, including SEC/VAC salaries and expenses, training programs, background checks, etc.	\$31,667,740	\$51,021,837
Total costs related to allegations	\$119,079,647	\$153,539,897
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$150,747,387</b>	<b>204,561,734</b>

Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2015

Altogether, dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes reported \$204,561,734 in total costs related to child protection efforts as well as costs related to allegations that were paid between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015. This is a 36 percent increase over that reported for year 2014 (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014).

2015



# APPENDIX A

## 2011 CHARTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### PREAMBLE

Since 2002, the Church in the United States has experienced a crisis without precedent in our times. The sexual abuse of children and young people by some deacons, priests, and bishops, and the ways in which these crimes and sins were addressed, have caused enormous pain, anger, and confusion. As bishops, we have acknowledged our mistakes and our roles in that suffering, and we apologize and take responsibility again for too often failing victims and the Catholic people in the past. From the depths of our hearts, we bishops express great sorrow and profound regret for what the Catholic people have endured.

Again, with this 2011 revision of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, we re-affirm our deep commitment to creating a safe environment within the Church for children and youth. We have listened to the profound pain and suffering of those victimized by sexual abuse and will continue to respond to their cries. We have agonized over the sinfulness, the criminality, and the breach of trust perpetrated by some members of the clergy. We have determined as best we can the extent of the problem of this abuse of minors by clergy in our country, as well as commissioned a study of the causes and context of this problem.

We continue to have a special care for and a commitment to reaching out to the victims of sexual abuse and their families. The damage caused by sexual abuse of minors is devastating and long-lasting. We apologize to them for the grave harm that has been inflicted on them, and we offer our help for the future. The loss of trust that is often

the consequence of such abuse becomes even more tragic when it leads to a loss of the faith that we have a sacred duty to foster. We make our own the words of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II: that the sexual abuse of young people is “by every standard wrong and rightly considered a crime by society; it is also an appalling sin in the eyes of God” (Address to the Cardinals of the United States and Conference Officers, April 23, 2002).

Along with the victims and their families, the entire Catholic community in this country has suffered because of this scandal and its consequences. In the last nine years, the intense public scrutiny of the minority of the ordained who have betrayed their calling has caused the vast majority of faithful priests and deacons to experience enormous vulnerability to being misunderstood in their ministry and even to the possibility of false accusations. We share with them a firm commitment to renewing the image of the vocation to Holy Orders so that it will continue to be perceived as a life of service to others after the example of Christ our Lord.

We, who have been given the responsibility of shepherding God’s people, will, with his help and in full collaboration with all the faithful, continue to work to restore the bonds of trust that unite us. Words alone cannot accomplish this goal. It will begin with the actions we take in our General Assembly and at home in our dioceses and eparchies.

We feel a particular responsibility for “the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Cor 5:18) which God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, has given us. The love of Christ impels us to ask forgiveness for our own faults but also to appeal to all—to those who have been victimized, to those who have

offended, and to all who have felt the wound of this scandal—to be reconciled to God and one another.

Perhaps in a way never before experienced, we have felt the power of sin touch our entire Church family in this country; but as St. Paul boldly says, God made Christ “to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor 5:21). May we who have known sin experience as well, through a spirit of reconciliation, God’s own righteousness.

We know that after such profound hurt, healing and reconciliation are beyond human capacity alone. It is God’s grace and mercy that will lead us forward, trusting Christ’s promise: “for God all things are possible” (Mt 19:26).

In working toward fulfilling this responsibility, we have relied first of all on Almighty God to sustain us in faith and in the discernment of the right course to take.

We have received fraternal guidance and support from the Holy See that has sustained us in this time of trial.

We have relied on the Catholic faithful of the United States. Nationally and in each diocese, the wisdom and expertise of clergy, religious, and laity have contributed immensely to confronting the effects of the crisis and have taken steps to resolve it. We are filled with gratitude for their great faith, for their generosity, and for the spiritual and moral support that we have received from them.

We acknowledge and affirm the faithful service of the vast majority of our priests and deacons and the love that their people have for them. They deservedly have our esteem and that of the Catholic people for their good work. It is regrettable that their committed ministerial witness has been overshadowed by this crisis.

In a special way, we acknowledge those victims of clergy sexual abuse and their families who have trusted us enough to share their stories and to help us appreciate more fully the consequences of this reprehensible violation of sacred trust.

Let there now be no doubt or confusion on anyone’s part: For us, your bishops, our obligation to protect children and young people and to prevent sexual abuse flows from the mission and example given to us by Jesus Christ himself, in whose name we serve.

As we work to restore trust, we are reminded how Jesus showed constant care for the vulnerable. He

inaugurated his ministry with these words of the Prophet Isaiah:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring glad tidings to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.  
(Lk 4:18-19)

In Matthew 25, the Lord, in his commission to his apostles and disciples, told them that whenever they show mercy and compassion to the least ones, they show it to him.

Jesus extended this care in a tender and urgent way to children, rebuking his disciples for keeping them away from him: “Let the children come to me” (Mt 19:14). And he uttered a grave warning that for anyone who would lead the little ones astray, it would be better for such a person “to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea” (Mt 18:6).

We hear these words of the Lord as prophetic for this moment. With a firm determination to restore the bonds of trust, we bishops recommit ourselves to a continual pastoral outreach to repair the breach with those who have suffered sexual abuse and with all the people of the Church.

In this spirit, over the last nine years, the principles and procedures of the *Charter* have been integrated into church life.

- The Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection provides the focus for a consistent, ongoing, and comprehensive approach to creating a secure environment for young people throughout the Church in the United States.
- The Secretariat also provides the means for us to be accountable for achieving the goals of the *Charter*, as demonstrated by its annual reports on the implementation of the *Charter* based on independent compliance audits.
- The National Review Board is carrying on its responsibility to assist in the assessment of diocesan compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.
- The descriptive study of the nature and scope of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy in the United States, commissioned by the National

Review Board, has been completed. The resulting study, examining the historical period 1950-2002, by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice provides us with a powerful tool not only to examine our past but also to secure our future against such misconduct.

- The U.S. bishops charged the National Review Board to oversee the completion of the *Causes and Context* study.
- Victims’ assistance coordinators are in place throughout our nation to assist dioceses in responding to the pastoral needs of those who have been injured by abuse.
- Diocesan/eparchial bishops in every diocese are advised and greatly assisted by diocesan review boards as the bishops make the decisions needed to fulfill the *Charter*.
- Safe environment programs are in place to assist parents and children—and those who work with children—in preventing harm to young people. These programs continually seek to incorporate the most useful developments in the field of child protection.

Through these steps and many others, we remain committed to the safety of our children and young people.

While it seems that the scope of this disturbing problem of sexual abuse of minors by clergy has been reduced over the last decade, the harmful effects of this abuse continue to be experienced both by victims and dioceses.

Thus it is with a vivid sense of the effort which is still needed to confront the effects of this crisis fully and with the wisdom gained by the experience of the last six years that we have reviewed and revised the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. We now re-affirm that we will assist in the healing of those who have been injured, will do all in our power to protect children and young people, and will work with our clergy, religious, and laity to restore trust and harmony in our faith communities, as we pray for God’s kingdom to come, here on earth, as it is in heaven.

To make effective our goals of a safe environment within the Church for children and young people and of preventing sexual abuse of minors by clergy in the future, we, the members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, have outlined in this *Charter* a series of practical and pastoral steps,

and we commit ourselves to taking them in our dioceses and eparchies.

## TO PROMOTE HEALING AND RECONCILIATION WITH VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS

**ARTICLE 1.** Dioceses/eparchies are to reach out to victims/survivors and their families and demonstrate a sincere commitment to their spiritual and emotional well-being. The first obligation of the Church with regard to the victims is for healing and reconciliation. Each diocese/eparchy is to continue its outreach to every person who has been the victim of sexual abuse\* as a minor by anyone in church service, whether the abuse was recent or occurred many years in the past. This outreach may include provision of counseling, spiritual assistance, support groups, and other social services agreed upon by the victim and the diocese/eparchy.

Through pastoral outreach to victims and their families, the diocesan/eparchial bishop or his representative is to offer to meet with them, to listen with patience and compassion to their experiences and concerns, and to share the “profound sense of solidarity and concern” expressed by His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, in his Address to the Cardinals of the United States and Conference Officers (April 23, 2002). Pope Benedict XVI, too, in his address to the U.S. bishops in 2008 said of the clergy sexual abuse crisis, “It is your God-given responsibility as pastors to bind up the wounds caused by every breach of trust, to foster healing, to promote reconciliation and to reach out with loving concern to those so seriously wronged.”

We bishops and eparchs commit ourselves to work as one with our brother priests and deacons to foster reconciliation among all people in our dioceses/eparchies. We especially commit ourselves to work with those individuals who were themselves abused and the communities that have suffered because of the sexual abuse of minors that occurred in their midst.

**ARTICLE 2.** Dioceses/eparchies are to have policies and procedures in place to respond promptly to any allegation where there is reason to believe that sexual abuse of a minor has occurred. Dioceses/eparchies are to have a competent person or persons to coordinate assistance for the immediate pastoral care of persons who report having been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other church personnel. The procedures for those making a complaint are to be readily available in printed form in the principal languages in which the liturgy is celebrated in the diocese/eparchy and be the subject of public announcements at least annually.

Dioceses/eparchies are also to have a review board that functions as a confidential consultative body to the bishop/eparch. The majority of its members are to be lay persons not in the employ of the diocese/eparchy (see Norm 5 in *Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons*, 2006). This board is to advise the diocesan/eparchial bishop in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse of minors and in his determination of a cleric's suitability for ministry. It is regularly to review diocesan/eparchial policies and procedures for dealing with sexual abuse of minors. Also, the board can review these matters both retrospectively and prospectively and give advice on all aspects of responses in connection with these cases.

**ARTICLE 3.** Dioceses/eparchies are not to enter into settlements which bind the parties to confidentiality unless the victim/survivor requests confidentiality and this request is noted in the text of the agreement.

## TO GUARANTEE AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS

**ARTICLE 4.** Dioceses/eparchies are to report an allegation of sexual abuse of a person who is a minor to the public authorities. Dioceses/eparchies are to comply with all applicable civil laws with respect to the reporting of allegations of sexual abuse of minors to civil authorities and cooperate

in their investigation in accord with the law of the jurisdiction in question.

Dioceses/eparchies are to cooperate with public authorities about reporting cases even when the person is no longer a minor.

In every instance, dioceses/eparchies are to advise victims of their right to make a report to public authorities and support this right.

**ARTICLE 5.** We affirm the words of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, in his Address to the Cardinals of the United States and Conference Officers: "There is no place in the priesthood or religious life for those who would harm the young."

Sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric is a crime in the universal law of the Church (CIC, c. 1395 §2; CCEO, c. 1453 §1). Because of the seriousness of this matter, jurisdiction has been reserved to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (*Motu proprio Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, AAS 93, 2001). Sexual abuse of a minor is also a crime in all civil jurisdictions in the United States.

Diocesan/eparchial policy is to provide that for even a single act of sexual abuse of a minor\*—when-ever it occurred—which is admitted or established after an appropriate process in accord with canon law, the offending priest or deacon is to be permanently removed from ministry and, if warranted, dismissed from the clerical state. In keeping with the stated purpose of this *Charter*, an offending priest or deacon is to be offered therapeutic professional assistance both for the purpose of prevention and also for his own healing and well-being.

The diocesan/eparchial bishop is to exercise his power of governance, within the parameters of the universal law of the Church, to ensure that any priest or deacon subject to his governance who has committed even one act of sexual abuse of a minor as described below (see note) shall not continue in ministry.

A priest or deacon who is accused of sexual abuse of a minor is to be accorded the presumption of innocence during the investigation of the allegation and all appropriate steps are to be taken to protect his reputation. He is to be encouraged to retain the assistance of civil and canonical counsel. If the allegation is deemed not substantiated, every step possible is to be taken to restore his good name, should it have been harmed.



In fulfilling this article, dioceses/eparchies are to follow the requirements of the universal law of the Church and of the *Essential Norms* approved for the United States.

**ARTICLE 6.** There are to be clear and well-publicized diocesan/eparchial standards of ministerial behavior and appropriate boundaries for clergy and for any other paid personnel and volunteers of the Church in positions of trust who have regular contact with children and young people.

**ARTICLE 7.** Dioceses/eparchies are to be open and transparent in communicating with the public about sexual abuse of minors by clergy within the confines of respect for the privacy and the reputation of the individuals involved. This is especially so with regard to informing parish and other church communities directly affected by sexual abuse of a minor.

TO ENSURE THE  
ACCOUNTABILITY OF  
OUR PROCEDURES

**ARTICLE 8.** By the authority of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse is renewed, and it is now constituted the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. It becomes a standing committee of the Conference. Its membership is to include representation from all the episcopal regions of the country, with new appointments staggered to maintain continuity in the effort to protect children and youth.

The Committee is to advise the USCCB on all matters related to child and youth protection and is to oversee the development of the plans, programs, and budget of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection. It is to provide the USCCB with comprehensive planning and recommendations concerning child and youth protection by coordinating the efforts of the Secretariat and the National Review Board.

**ARTICLE 9.** The Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, established by the Conference

of Catholic Bishops, is to staff the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People and be a resource for dioceses/eparchies for the implementation of “safe environment” programs and for suggested training and development of diocesan personnel responsible for child and youth protection programs, taking into account the financial and other resources, as well as the population, area, and demographics of the diocese/eparchy.

The Secretariat is to produce an annual public report on the progress made in implementing and maintaining the standards in this *Charter*. The report is to be based on an annual audit process whose method, scope, and cost are to be approved by the Administrative Committee on the recommendation of the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. This public report is to include the names of those dioceses/eparchies which the audit shows are not in compliance with the provisions and expectations of the *Charter*.

As a member of the Conference staff, the Executive Director of the Secretariat is appointed by and reports to the General Secretary. The Executive Director is to provide the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People and the National Review Board with regular reports of the Secretariat’s activities.

**ARTICLE 10.** The whole Church, especially the laity, at both the diocesan and national levels, needs to be engaged in maintaining safe environments in the Church for children and young people.

The Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People is to be assisted by the National Review Board, a consultative body established in 2002 by the USCCB. The Board will review the annual report of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection on the implementation of this *Charter* in each diocese/eparchy and any recommendations that emerge from it, and offer its own assessment regarding its approval and publication to the Conference President.

The Board will also advise the Conference President on future members. The Board members are appointed by the Conference President in consultation with the Administrative Committee and are accountable to him and to the USCCB Executive Committee. Before a candidate



is contacted, the Conference President is to seek and obtain, in writing, the endorsement of the candidate's diocesan bishop. The Board is to operate in accord with the statutes and bylaws of the USCCB and within procedural guidelines to be developed by the Board in consultation with the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People and approved by the USCCB Administrative Committee. These guidelines are to set forth such matters as the Board's purpose and responsibility, officers, terms of office, and frequency of reports to the Conference President on its activities.

The Board will offer its advice as it collaborates with the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People on matters of child and youth protection, specifically on policies and best practices. The Board and Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People will meet jointly several times a year.

The Board will review the work of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and make recommendations to the Director. It will assist the Director in the development of resources for dioceses.

The Board will offer its assessment of the Causes and Context study to the Conference, along with any recommendations suggested by the study.

**ARTICLE 11.** The President of the Conference is to inform the Holy See of this revised *Charter* to indicate the manner in which we, the Catholic bishops, together with the entire Church in the United States, intend to continue our commitment to the protection of children and young people. The President is also to share with the Holy See the annual reports on the implementation of the *Charter*.

## TO PROTECT THE FAITHFUL IN THE FUTURE

**ARTICLE 12.** Dioceses/eparchies are to maintain "safe environment" programs which the diocesan/eparchial bishop deems to be in accord with Catholic moral principles. They are to be conducted cooperatively with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and

training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, volunteers, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people. Dioceses/eparchies are to make clear to clergy and all members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons in positions of trust with regard to children.

**ARTICLE 13.** Dioceses/eparchies are to evaluate the background of all incardinated and non-incardinated priests and deacons who are engaged in ecclesiastical ministry in the diocese/eparchy and of all diocesan/eparchial and parish/school or other paid personnel and volunteers whose duties include ongoing, unsupervised contact with minors. Specifically, they are to utilize the resources of law enforcement and other community agencies. In addition, they are to employ adequate screening and evaluative techniques in deciding the fitness of candidates for ordination (cf. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Program of Priestly Formation* [Fifth Edition], 2006, no. 39).

**ARTICLE 14.** Transfers of clergy who have committed an act of sexual abuse against a minor for residence, including retirement, shall be as in accord with Norm 12 of the Essential Norms. (Cf. *Proposed Guidelines on the Transfer or Assignment of Clergy and Religious*, adopted by the USCCB, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men [CMSM], the Leadership Conference of Women Religious [LCWR], and the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious [CMSWR] in 1993.)

**ARTICLE 15.** To ensure continuing collaboration and mutuality of effort in the protection of children and young people on the part of the bishops and religious ordinaries, two representatives of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men are to serve as consultants to the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. At the invitation of the Major Superiors, the Committee will designate two of its members to consult with its counterpart at CMSM. Diocesan/eparchial bishops and major superiors of clerical institutes or their delegates are to meet periodically to coordinate their roles concerning the issue of allegations made against a cleric member of a religious institute ministering in a diocese/eparchy.

**ARTICLE 16.** Given the extent of the problem of the sexual abuse of minors in our society, we are willing to cooperate with other churches and ecclesial communities, other religious bodies, institutions of learning, and other interested organizations in conducting research in this area.

**ARTICLE 17.** We commit ourselves to work individually in our dioceses/eparchies and together as a Conference, through the appropriate committees, to strengthen our programs both for initial priestly formation and for the ongoing formation of priests. With renewed urgency, we will promote programs of human formation for chastity and celibacy for both seminarians and priests based upon the criteria found in *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, the *Program of Priestly Formation*, the *Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests*, and the results of the Apostolic Visitation. We will continue to assist priests, deacons, and seminarians in living out their vocation in faithful and integral ways.

## CONCLUSION

As we wrote in 2002, “It is within this context of the essential soundness of the priesthood and of the deep faith of our brothers and sisters in the Church that we know that we can meet and resolve this crisis for now and the future.”

We wish to re-affirm once again that the vast majority of priests and deacons serve their people faithfully and that they have the esteem and affection of their people. They also have our love and esteem and our commitment to their good names and well-being.

An essential means of dealing with the crisis is prayer for healing and reconciliation, and acts of reparation for the grave offense to God and the deep wound inflicted upon his holy people. Closely connected to prayer and acts of reparation is the call to holiness of life and the care of the diocesan/eparchial bishop to ensure that he and his priests avail themselves of the proven ways of avoiding sin and growing in holiness of life.

## IT IS WITH RELIANCE ON PRAYER AND PENANCE THAT WE RENEW THE PLEDGES WHICH WE MADE IN THE ORIGINAL CHARTER:

We pledge most solemnly to one another and to you, God’s people, that we will work to our utmost for the protection of children and youth.

We pledge that we will devote to this goal the resources and personnel necessary to accomplish it.

We pledge that we will do our best to ordain to the priesthood and put into positions of trust only those who share this commitment to protecting children and youth.

We pledge that we will work toward healing and reconciliation for those sexually abused by clerics.



Much has been done to honor these pledges. We devoutly pray that God who has begun this good work in us will bring it to fulfillment.

This *Charter* is published for the dioceses/eparchies of the United States. It is to be reviewed again after two years by the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People with

the advice of the National Review Board. The results of this review are to be presented to the full Conference of Bishops for confirmation.

## NOTE

\* For purposes of this *Charter*, the offense of sexual abuse of a minor will be understood in accord with the provisions of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela* (SST), article 6, which reads:

§1. The more grave delicts against morals which are reserved to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith are:

1° the delict against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue committed by a cleric with a minor below the age of eighteen years; in this case, a person who habitually lacks the use of reason is to be considered equivalent to a minor.

2° the acquisition, possession, or distribution by a cleric of pornographic images of minors under the age of fourteen, for purposes of sexual gratification, by whatever

er means or using whatever technology;  
§2. A cleric who commits the delicts mentioned above in §1 is to be punished according to the gravity of his crime, not excluding dismissal or deposition.

In view of the Circular Letter from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, dated May 3, 2011, which calls for “mak[ing] allowance for the legislation of the country where the Conference is located,” Section III(g), we will apply the federal legal age for defining child pornography, which includes pornographic images of minors under the age of eighteen, for assessing a cleric’s suitability for ministry and for complying with civil reporting statutes.

If there is any doubt whether a specific act qualifies as an external, objectively grave violation, the writings of recognized moral theologians should be consulted, and the opinions of recognized experts should be appropriately obtained (*Canonical Delicts Involving Sexual Misconduct and Dismissal from the Clerical State*, 1995, p. 6). Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the diocesan bishop/eparch, with the advice of a qualified review board, to determine the gravity of the alleged act.



Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate  
Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs

# APPENDIX B

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR DIOCESES AND EPARCHIES

### QUESTIONNAIRE FOR DIOCESES AND EPARCHIES

This questionnaire is designed to survey dioceses and eparchies about credible accusations of abuse and the costs in dealing with these allegations. The results will be used to demonstrate progress in implementing the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and reducing the incidence of sexual abuse within the Church.

All data collected here are entirely confidential. Only national aggregate results will be reported.

ALL DATA REPORTED HERE REFER TO THE PRECEDING AUDIT YEAR –  
JULY 1, 2014-JUNE 30, 2015.

- 140 A. Total number of allegations received between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 that were unsubstantiated or determined to be false by June 30, 2015.
- 40 B. Total number of allegations received prior to July 1, 2014 that were unsubstantiated or determined to be false between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

### CREDIBLE ALLEGATIONS

NOTE: An allegation is defined as one victim alleging an act or acts of abuse by one alleged perpetrator. Only credible allegations (those that have been substantiated by a preliminary investigation and would be eligible to be sent to Rome according to Canons 1717 and 1719) are appropriate for inclusion in this survey.

- 321 1. Total number of new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor reported against a priest or deacon in the diocese between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. (Do not include clergy that are members of religious institutes as they will be reported by their religious institutes).
- 7 2. Of the total number in item 1, the number of allegations that involved solely child pornography.

Of the total number in item 1, the number that were first reported to the diocese/eparchy by:  
Choose only one category for each allegation. (The sum of items 3-9 should equal item 1).

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 106 3. Victim.                     | 8 7. Law enforcement.                         |
| 31 4. Family member of the victim. | 4 8. Bishop or official from another diocese. |
| 3 5. Friend of the victim.         | 48 9. Other: _____.                           |
| 113 6. Attorney.                   |   |

Of the total number in item 1 (excluding the solely child pornography cases), the number of alleged victims that are:  
253 10. Male. 60 11. Female.

Of the total number in item 1 (excluding the solely child pornography cases), the number of alleged victims in each age category when the alleged abuse began: (Choose only one category for each allegation).

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 50 12. 0-9.    | 45 14. 15-17.       |
| 148 13. 10-14. | 61 15. Age unknown. |

Of the total number in item 1, the number that are alleged to have began in:  
Choose only one category for each allegation. (The sum of items 16-30 should equal item 1).

- |                        |                   |                             |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 8 16. 1954 or earlier. | 50 21. 1975-1979. | 2 26. 2000-2004.            |
| 12 17. 1955-1959.      | 38 22. 1980-1984. | 3 27. 2005-2009.            |
| 31 18. 1960-1964.      | 13 23. 1985-1989. | 7 28. 2010-2014.            |
| 45 19. 1965-1969.      | 12 24. 1990-1994. | 4 29. 2015.                 |
| 44 20. 1970-1974.      | 3 25. 1995-1999.  | 45 30. Time period unknown. |

ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

NOTE: Include any perpetrators who are or were ordained members of the clergy legitimately serving in or assigned to the diocese or eparchy at the time the credible allegation(s) was alleged to have occurred. Do not include clergy that are members of religious institutes as they will be reported by their religious institutes.

227 31. Total number of priests or deacons against whom new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor have been reported between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

Of the total number in item 31, how many were in each category below at the time of the alleged abuse?

Choose only one category for each alleged perpetrator. (The sum of items 32-37 should equal item 31).

- 183 32. Diocesan priests ordained for this diocese or eparchy.
10 33. Diocesan priests incardinated later in this diocese or eparchy.
7 34. Extern diocesan priests from another U.S. diocese serving in this diocese or eparchy.
6 35. Extern diocesan priests from a diocese outside the United States serving in this diocese or eparchy.
4 36. Permanent deacons.
15 37. Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

Of the total number in item 31, the number that:

- 145 38. Have had one or more previous allegations reported against them prior to July 1, 2014.
181 39. Are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing.
13 40. Have been permanently removed or retired from ministry between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 based on allegations of abuse.
3 41. Have been returned to ministry between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.
20 42. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2015).
0 43. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2015).

Indicate the total number of alleged perpetrators identified prior to July 1, 2014 that:

- 26 44. Were permanently removed or retired from ministry between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 based on allegations of abuse.
10 45. Were returned to ministry between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.
50 46. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2015).
3 47. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2015).

COSTS

\$87,067,257 48. Amounts paid for all child protection efforts, including SEC/VAC salaries and expenses, training programs, background checks, etc.

Indicate the approximate total amount of funds expended by the diocese between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 for payments as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor (notwithstanding the year in which the allegation was received):

- \$87,067,257 49. All settlements paid to victims.
\$8,754,747 50. Other payments to victims (e.g., for therapy or other expenses, if separate from settlements).
\$11,500,539 51. Payments for support for offenders (including living expenses, legal expenses, therapy, etc.).
\$30,148,535 52. Payments for attorneys' fees.
\$3,812,716 53. Other allegation-related costs: \_\_\_\_\_
14.6% 54. Approximate percentage of the amount in items 49-53 that was covered by diocesan insurance.

In the event it is necessary for clarification about the data reported here, please supply the following information:

Name and title of person completing this form: \_\_\_\_\_
Arch/Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for completing this survey.

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), 2300 Wisconsin Ave NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20007

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Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate  
Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs

# APPENDIX C

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES

### QUESTIONNAIRE FOR RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES

This questionnaire is designed to survey religious institutes, societies of apostolic life or the separate provinces thereof and will be used to demonstrate progress in implementing the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and reducing the incidence of sexual abuse within the Church.

All data collected here are entirely confidential. Only national aggregate results will be reported.

ALL DATA REPORTED HERE REFER TO THE PRECEDING AUDIT YEAR –  
JULY 1, 2014-JUNE 30, 2015.

- 39 A. Total number of allegations received between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 that were unsubstantiated or determined to be false by June 30, 2015.
- 8 B. Total number of allegations received prior to July 1, 2014 that were unsubstantiated or determined to be false between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

### CREDIBLE ALLEGATIONS

NOTE: An allegation is defined as one victim alleging an act or acts of abuse by one alleged perpetrator. Only credible allegations (those that have been substantiated by a preliminary investigation and would be eligible to be sent to Rome according to Canons 1717 and 1719) are appropriate for inclusion in this survey.

- 71 1. Total number of new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor reported against a priest, deacon, or perpetually professed brother in the religious institute between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. (**Only include members of the religious institute who are clergy or perpetually professed brothers.**)
  - 1 2. Of the total number in item 1, the number of allegations that involved solely child pornography.

Of the total number in item 1, the number that were first reported to the religious institute by:  
Choose only one category for each allegation. (The sum of items 3-9 should equal item 1).

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 20 3. Victim.                     | 1 7. Law enforcement.                          |
| 1 4. Family member of the victim. | 14 8. Bishop or other official from a diocese. |
| 0 5. Friend of the victim.        | 5 9. Other: _____.                             |
| 30 6. Attorney.                   |  |

Of the total number in item 1 (excluding the solely child pornography cases), the number of alleged victims that are:

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| 54 10. Male. | 15 11. Female. |
|--------------|----------------|

Of the total number in item 1 (excluding the solely child pornography cases), the number of alleged victims in each age category when the alleged abuse began: (Choose only one category for each allegation).

- |               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 17 12. 0-9.   | 18 14. 15-17.      |
| 27 13. 10-14. | 9 15. Age unknown. |

Of the total number in item 1, the number that are alleged to have begun in:

Choose only one category for each allegation. (The sum of items 16-30 should equal item 1).

- |                        |                  |                            |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 8 16. 1954 or earlier. | 7 22. 1980-1984. | 1 28. 2010-2014.           |
| 8 17. 1955-1959.       | 5 23. 1985-1989. | 1 29. 2015.                |
| 4 18. 1960-1964.       | 3 24. 1990-1994. | 3 30. Time period unknown. |
| 6 19. 1965-1969.       | 1 25. 1995-1999. |                            |
| 16 20. 1970-1974.      | 0 26. 2000-2004. |                            |
| 7 21. 1975-1979.       | 1 27. 2005-2009. |                            |

## ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

*NOTE: Include any perpetrators who are or were **ordained members of the religious clergy or were perpetually professed brothers** legitimately serving in or assigned to a diocese or eparchy or within the religious institute at the time the credible allegation(s) was alleged to have occurred.*

49 31. Total number of **clergy or perpetually professed brothers** against whom new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor have been reported between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

*Of the total number in item 31, how many were in each category below at the time of the alleged abuse? Choose only one category for each alleged perpetrator. (The sum of items 32-37 should equal item 31).*

	<b>Priests</b>	<b>Brothers</b>	
27	32a. 12	32b.	Member of this province assigned within the United States.
0	33a. 0	33b.	Member of this province assigned outside the United States.
3	34a. 4	34b.	Formerly of this province but no longer a member of the religious institute.
4	35a. 0	35b.	Not of this province but serving in this province of the religious institute.
1	36.		Deacon members of the religious institute.
0	37.		Other: _____.

*Of the total number in item 31, the number that:*

30	38.	Have had one or more previous allegations reported against them prior to July 1, 2014.
40	39.	Are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing.
6	40.	Have been permanently removed or retired from ministry between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 based on allegations of abuse.
1	41.	Have been returned to ministry between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.
3	42.	Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2015).
0	43.	Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2015).

*Indicate the total number of alleged perpetrators identified **prior to July 1, 2014** that:*

10	44.	Were permanently removed or retired from ministry between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 based on allegations of abuse.
2	45.	Were returned to ministry between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.
3	46.	Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2015).
0	47.	Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2015).

## COSTS

\$1,955,832 48. Amounts paid for **all child protection** efforts, including Safe Environment salaries and expenses, training programs, background checks, etc.

*Indicate the approximate total amount of funds expended by the religious institute between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 for **payments as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor** (notwithstanding the year in which the allegation was received):*

\$5,451,612	49.	All settlements paid to victims.
\$337,696	50.	Other payments to victims (e.g., for therapy or other expenses, if separate from settlements).
\$2,507,513	51.	Payments for support for offenders (including living expenses, legal expenses, therapy, etc.).
\$3,592,233	52.	Payments for attorneys' fees.
\$446,696	53.	Other allegation-related costs: _____.
3.7%	54.	Approximate percentage of the amount in items 49-53 that was covered by insurance of the religious institute.

*In the event it is necessary for clarification about the data reported here, please supply the following information:*

Name and title of person completing this form: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Institute: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for completing this survey.**

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# A PRAYER for HEALING

## VICTIMS OF ABUSE

God of endless love,  
ever caring, ever strong,  
always present, always just:  
You gave your only Son  
to save us by his Blood on the Cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,  
join to your own suffering  
the pain of all who have been hurt  
in body, mind, and spirit  
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters  
who have been gravely harmed,  
and the cries of those who love them.  
Soothe their restless hearts with hope,  
steady their shaken spirits with faith.  
Grant them justice for their cause,  
enlightened by your truth.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,  
heal your people's wounds  
and transform brokenness into wholeness.  
Grant us the courage and wisdom,  
humility and grace, to act with justice.  
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.  
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.