

# 2014

# ANNUAL REPORT

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



SECRETARIAT  
OF CHILD  
AND YOUTH  
PROTECTION

NATIONAL  
REVIEW BOARD

UNITED STATES  
CONFERENCE OF  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

MARCH 2015

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

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OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS



The 2014 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. Ronny E. Jenkins, JCD  
General Secretary, USCCB

The findings and recommendations in this 2014 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.

First Printing, March 2015

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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 twelfth 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.

The healing of victims/survivors of abuse remains our first priority. We join Pope Francis in his desire that the response of the Church be pastoral and immediate. This year's report reflects our pledge to address the sexual abuse of minors through comprehensive efforts to reach out to victims with care and compassion, a commitment to report all abuse to the authorities, accountability for those who have committed acts of abuse, and strong efforts in education and prevention.

This report is part of a pledge we have made to remain accountable and vigilant. Behind the data contained in the report are men and women, adults and children, in need of our prayers and support. As we continue to create a climate of safety for all minors entrusted to the Church's pastoral care, our three-fold pledge guides us: to help victims heal; to educate about and prevent abuse; and to hold accountable those who have harmed children. These remain essential priorities for our Church.

In the past ten years, innumerable hours have been put into these efforts, not only by bishops and their staff, but also by pastors, parents, parish and school volunteers, and Catholic schoolteachers and principals. Much work has been done to keep children in the care of the Church safe, but we must not think the work is finished. The diocesan efforts for outreach and healing continue to demonstrate the honest endeavors of fulfilling the bishops' promise to protect and pledge to heal.

Finally, this report clearly shows we must remain ever vigilant in the protection of children. Though our promise to protect and heal made in 2002 remains strong, we must not become complacent with what has been accomplished. It is my hope and prayer that as we continue to fulfill our promise, the Church will help model ways of addressing and bringing to light the darkness and evil of abuse wherever it exists.



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

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February 2, 2015

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

Your Excellency,

In collaboration with the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, I am pleased to provide you, on behalf of the National Review Board and its Audit Committee, the Annual Report summarizing the results of the twelfth compliance audit. The importance of the audit cannot be underestimated as a critical instrument of accountability that signals to the faithful the commitment of the bishops in complying with the articles of the *Charter*. It is imperative that the audit remain an independent instrument, and so, not be perceived by the faithful as a tool that is controlled by the bishops, which would thereby weaken its credibility and reliability. The audit has proven to be a valuable tool in assisting bishops in their efforts to strengthen initiatives aimed at the protection of children and young people. The seriousness with which the bishops take this responsibility in our parishes, schools, and church-related agencies is evidenced by the audit, which helps in the restoration of trust between the faithful and the bishops.

I am pleased that the overwhelming majority of the bishops in the United States continue to comply and cooperate with this important audit process. It is unfortunate, however, that it cannot be claimed that every diocese/eparchy in the United States is in compliance with the *Charter* and implementing its requirements to ensure the safety of our children and young people. Once again, in this year's audit, one diocese and five eparchies did not participate in the audit. As a result of this refusal, they are all found to be noncompliant with the *Charter*. They are

- Diocese of Lincoln
- Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle for Chaldeans
- Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark for Syrians
- Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg for Armenians
- Eparchy of Stamford for Ukrainians
- Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn

Total participation in the audit is essential to demonstrate to the faithful the commitment of the bishops to rectify the unimaginable wrongs inflicted on our children in the past and their sincerity to do everything possible to prevent such abuse from happening again. The National Review Board recognizes the particular challenges faced by eparchies in participating in the audit and is willing to assist in finding a way that will allow for their participation. Since the audit is of utmost

importance in the protection of our children and the restoration of the bishops' credibility, there must be 100 percent participation.

The results of this year's audit indicate that significant progress continues to be made in addressing the issue of sexual abuse of minors in the Church. We commend the bishops for their efforts, which have resulted in a positive cultural change within the Church—victims are treated with respect; there is greater transparency with the faithful; safe environment programs are being offered; background checks are being conducted; careful screening of applicants and candidates for the priesthood and diaconate have been instituted; and clergy who have a credible allegation are removed from ministry.

While substantive progress has been made, it should not be concluded that the sexual abuse of minors is a problem of the past that has been adequately addressed. The fact that there were six substantiated cases of abuse of current minors in this year's audit is indicative of the fact that there are still instances where dioceses fall short. Dioceses/eparchies can easily fall victim to complacency, as the requirements of the *Charter* become the *modus operandi* of the life of the Church. This complacency, or false sense of security, is something that bishops need to guard against. There must be a renewed commitment each day to being diligent in the implementation of the *Charter* to avoid drifting from what is expected of the bishops. I would call your attention to instances where there is evidence of *Charter* drift within this report.

Allow me also to call your attention to some of the recommendations and best practices highlighted in this report. While not impacting compliance with the *Charter*, these suggestions, based on practices observed by the auditors in various dioceses, are meant to help the bishops assume a level of leadership on the issue of sexual abuse that will benefit society at large, since we know that this is a problem not limited to the Church.

The National Review Board applauds the efforts of bishops to create a safe environment, so that no parent fears for the safety of their children within the Church. We encourage the bishops to remain vigilant and to act with boldness and courage in their efforts to protect our children and young people by creating a safe environment. We are grateful for your own commitment to the *Charter* and for the support you have shown this process 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.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Francesco C. Cesareo*

Francesco C. Cesareo, PhD  
Chairman



## Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection

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March 1, 2015

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,

On behalf of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection (SCYP), I am pleased to offer you the *2014 Annual Report: Findings and Recommendations*. This report documents diocesan/eparchial efforts to implement the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. You will discover in this report the findings of StoneBridge Business Partners, our independent auditors, and the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. Their results show that the Catholic Church in the United States continues to be motivated and dedicated in carrying out and keeping its *Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal*.

The Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection offers its progress report as well. The obligation of protecting our children is ongoing and the reality of the Church being a highly reliable culture will only be fully realized when everyone understands and carries out their responsibilities. Ongoing training and background checks are a great start. We will continue to work so that everyone will be empowered and knowledgeable when confronted with an allegation involving sexual misconduct.

I am grateful for the leadership of our bishops and the collaborative efforts of the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, the National Review Board, and the various secretariats at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The work of the SCYP is a result of trusted cooperation and the willingness to look honestly at effectively confronting this evil of sexual abuse of minors.

May God bless our victims and their family members and friends.

Sincerely in Christ,

Deacon Bernie Nojadera  
Executive Director





January 15, 2015

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

Dr. Francesco Cesareo, Ph.D., Chair  
National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People

Archbishop Kurtz and Dr. Cesareo,

For an audit to exude trust and confidence, it must be independent and effective. As we embarked upon a new three-year cycle of audits this year, we worked diligently to refine the audit program and process. We sought and received valuable input from the Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection (SCYP) and others associated with this process. Our goal has been and continues to be to strive to keep the audit program relevant and robust within an ever-changing landscape. This past year was no exception.

Prior to rolling out the revised program and documents, we hosted three webinar/workshops in Washington, DC in the Spring in which safe environment and victim assistance coordinators representing approximately 180 dioceses/eparchies participated. In addition, we also hosted an auditor training in conjunction with the SCYP at our Rochester, New York headquarters in June. As part of this education, we introduced a parish-wide survey tool we developed in which dioceses could elect to participate which helps gauge the level of *Charter* awareness by their individual parishes and schools.

We look forward to continuing our efforts in serving the USCCB and working with Bishop Edward J. Burns as he assumes the duties of leading the committee tasked with this oversight. The fine work that we observed around the country this past year is a testament to the dedication of the staff and volunteers who have taken a pledge to keeping children safe. Their efforts extend far beyond the Catholic Church – society in general is safer as a result of their work. In fact, it is our understanding that our programs may be introduced abroad for consideration this coming year.

We appreciate your support and 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 U.S.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James I. Marasco', written in a cursive style.

James I. Marasco, Director  
StoneBridge Business Partners





## Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

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January 2015

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 *2014 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 2013 *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 clerical and mixed religious institutes were also invited to complete a similar survey for their congregations, provinces, or monasteries.

Data collection for 2014 took place between September 2014 and December 2014. CARA received responses from 194 of the 195 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB and 158 of the 215 clerical and mixed religious institutes of CMSM, for response rates of 99 percent and 73 percent, respectively. CARA then prepared the national level summary tables and graphs of the findings for 2014, 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 2014.

Sincerely,

Fr. Thomas P. Gaunt, SJ  
Executive Director

Phone: 202-687-8080 • Fax: 202-687-8083 • E-mail: [CARA@georgetown.edu](mailto:CARA@georgetown.edu)

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

# SECTION I

2014

# CHAPTER ONE

## SECRETARIAT OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION 2014 PROGRESS REPORT

**A**rticle 9 of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* requires the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection “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 . . .”

The Secretariat is pleased to report that based on the findings of the auditors, Stonebridge Business Partners, progress continues to be made by the Catholic Church in the United States in implementing the standards identified in the *Charter*; this is to be commended. The Secretariat has reviewed the audits, as well as the auditor’s findings and recommendations and found that dioceses/eparchies are taking seriously their responsibility to implement the *Charter*. The vast majority of dioceses/eparchies audited continue to improve their methods of protecting children and providing outreach and support to victims.

to create safe environments and to be attentive to the behavior of others; this includes clergy, employees, and volunteers—even children are being taught to be aware of signs of grooming and to report it. Clergy, employees, and volunteers undergo background evaluations; dioceses/eparchies have instituted rigorous screening and evaluation processes for men seeking to enter the seminary and the priesthood. Clergy with credible allegations are not transferred to other parishes or dioceses/eparchies, and there are on-going, regular conversations between major superiors and bishops about the religious men assigned to a diocese/eparchy. Dioceses/eparchies collaborate with other institutions for research as well as prevention activities. There is ongoing formation for priests and deacons. Overall, the bishops have done much to protect children. In the twelve years since the *Charter* was first approved, there has been a positive cultural change in parishes and schools across the country. Children are safer than they have ever been in the Church.

### PROGRESS

In every diocese/eparchy audited, individuals coming forward with allegations are treated with respect and offered assistance in their healing process. Those making allegations are not required to sign confidentiality agreements. Reports of child sexual abuse are reported to civil authorities and priests who were found to have committed sexual abuse of minors are removed from ministry. Dioceses/eparchies are being open and transparent with the faithful, informing communities affected by abuse. Adults who work around children are being trained

### NONCOMPLIANCE ISSUES

This is not to say that dioceses and eparchies cannot improve in their efforts to protect children. Some dioceses/eparchies have clearly failed to meet the requirements of the Charter. The auditors found one eparchy (Eparchy of St. Nicholas) noncompliant with Article 2 in that their review board failed to meet for several years. In addition, two other dioceses/eparchies were unable to provide completed information for their data collection requests



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(Alexandria, LA, and the Eparchy of Newton for Melkites).

Dioceses/eparchies that did not participate in the audit:

- Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska
- Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle for Chaldeans
- Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark for Syrians
- Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg for Armenians
- Eparchy of Stamford for Ukrainians
- Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn

The Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark and Eparchy of Newton for Melkites had planned to participate in the audit this year, but circumstances prevented their participation. The Secretariat commends them for their efforts and continues to assist them in preparing for the audit. The Secretariat expects their participation next year.

We cannot emphasize enough, the harm to the Church caused by these compliance issues, as well as nonparticipation. What happens in one diocese/eparchy is frequently interpreted as happening in all dioceses/eparchies, and this results in all bishops being wrongly judged. When one diocese/eparchy fails to use all available means to protect children, not only is it perceived as a national phenomenon, but also as a lack of commitment by the bishops to take seriously the *Charter* and the protection of children.

The *Charter*, while not law, is a moral contract the bishops made with the faithful in 2002. With that document, they promised to heal the pains of the past and pledged to protect children in the future. The audit is proof of that pledge and a visible sign to the faithful of the bishops' ongoing commitment. It is a way to ensure the accountability of procedures. In addition, the audit helps dioceses/eparchies strengthen their programs. Twelve years later, the audit is more about how policies and practices can be improved than it is about finding wrongdoing. When a diocese/eparchy fails to utilize the audit, it is difficult to prove full compliance of the *Charter*. They are failing not only themselves and their brother bishops but also the faithful.

The audit is the best tool the Church in the United States has to monitor and improve its child protection and victim outreach programs. With the audit, almost every diocese/eparchy has

strengthened its ability to protect children. The recommendations from the Causes and Context Study have successfully worked together with the audit to make diocesan prevention methods even stronger. The Secretariat along with the National Review Board hopes that all dioceses/eparchies named above will reconsider their nonparticipation in the audit.

## MOVING FORWARD

The recommendations from the Causes and Context Study focused on three factors: education, situational prevention models, and oversight and accountability. The educational component has been instituted with great success. Dioceses/eparchies have trained millions of people over the past twelve years. At any given time, more than 98 percent of clerics, employees, and volunteers in active ministry have been trained to provide safe environments for children. Yearly, over 4 million children are trained to recognize and report abuse.

The audit shows an increase in the reports of 'boundary violations.' This increase may be an indication that safe environment training is making children more likely to report behaviors that make them uncomfortable. Boundary violations most often fall into the realm of behavior that is not criminal but violates the diocesan code of conduct. The Secretariat takes reports of boundary violations as a sign that training is working. Addressing boundary violations and following diocesan protocol for such behaviors may increase the likelihood that such behavior will not continue.

Looking at situational prevention models as recommended in the Causes and Context Study, the National Review Board (NRB) turned to organizations with highly reliable cultures. These organizations—the airline industry, nuclear power plants, hospitals, and aircraft carriers—where one misstep could cause the loss of life, have found ways to experience fewer accidents than might be expected. They are able to do that by creating highly reliable cultures. Everyone within their organizational systems, especially their leaders, is committed to ensuring safe environments. The NRB believes this can happen in our parishes and schools as well. Moreover, bishops agree, evidenced by the fact that safe environment coordinators were sent for

training. More workshops are planned to introduce the concepts and practices of highly reliable cultures to safe environment coordinators across the country this year.

## NUMBERS

The Secretariat receives two sets of numbers each year. One set is from the auditors. These numbers include all the information from both onsite and data collection audits. The numbers from the audit include all allegations reported from a diocese/eparchy during the audit year, not just the allegations that could be substantiated. For the audit, the following definitions are used:

- Substantiated: enough evidence exists to prove the abuse occurred
- Unsubstantiated: enough evidence exists to prove the abuse did not occur
- Unable to be proven: there is not enough evidence to determine whether or not the abuse occurred (generally used when the cleric is deceased or his status or location is unknown)
- Investigation ongoing: still under investigation
- Other: investigation not yet begun or referred to another diocese/eparchy for investigation

During the 2014 audit year (July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014), 620 survivors of child sexual abuse by clergy came forward to make 657 allegations for the first time: 130 cases were substantiated; 62 were unsubstantiated; 243 were still under investigation; 210 were unable to be proven or disproven; and 12 were “other.” Of all the allegations, 37 were made by current minors; the remaining 620 were made by adults who had been abused in the past. Of the 37 allegations made by current minors, all were reported to civil authorities, who found six substantiated; eleven unsubstantiated; twelve unable to be proven; and the investigation still ongoing in eight cases.

The other set of numbers comes from the *2014 Survey of Allegations and Costs* compiled by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). In the past, CARA collected numbers using the calendar year. This year, CARA collected numbers during the same period as the audit: July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014. CARA had a 99.5 percent response rate from dioceses and eparchies with only the Diocese

of Lincoln declining to participate. There was a 75 percent response rate from religious orders.

The information in the CARA survey differs from the information gathered in the StoneBridge audit in several ways. While the StoneBridge audit numbers include all allegations reported by a diocese/eparchy during the audit year, the CARA survey numbers are based on the request only for “those that have been substantiated by a preliminary investigation and are eligible to be sent to Rome according to Canons 1717 and 1719.” Allegations made against deceased clerics or clerics that were unable to be identified would not be included in the CARA report but would be reported in the StoneBridge audit.

While the StoneBridge audit measures whether or not a current minor has made an *allegation* in the audit year, the CARA survey only measures the number of *incidents of abuse* by calendar year: the CARA survey does not take into account the age of the victim making the allegation. For example, in 2014, CARA reported two *incidents of abuse* that were confirmed as occurring by the canonical process, while the audit found six *substantiated allegations* by law enforcement that may not have gone through a canonical process at the time of the audit. The difference in measurement explains the variance between the figures in the annual report.

## CONCLUSION

StoneBridge Business Partners, the auditors, found that dioceses/eparchies are implementing the *Charter* through appropriate policies, procedures, and practices. They also noted some deficiencies and weaknesses: hesitation to participate in parish audits or surveys, inconsistent collection and reporting methods, incomplete or inaccurate audit documents, and failure to participate in the audit process. Many of these issues are not dioceses/eparchies acting out of contempt or willful disregard for the requirements of the *Charter*; rather, they are caused by a sense of complacency. The Secretariat defines this complacency as *Charter* “drift.” This drift has been edging in over the years and is becoming the enemy of the *Charter*. This complacency can be seen in policies, procedures, or codes of conduct that have not been updated to include the revisions made to the *Charter* in 2011. It can be seen when

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recommendations from past years are not acted on. It can be seen when diocesan review board meetings are not held because there have not been any allegations, forgetting that review boards also review policies and procedures. Additionally, it is important to recognize that since the first audits, recordkeeping involving both training and background checks was cited as a problem. Yet, twelve years later, those recordkeeping problems continue to exist.

As the requirements of the *Charter* become a fact of diocesan, school, and parish life, people are becoming comfortable, thinking that because policies and procedures are in place, training is ongoing, and everyone knows what needs to be done that the work is done. This is not always true. While current overall rates of abuse do not come close to the rates at the peak of the abuse, this year's

report of six substantiated cases of abuse of a minor is six too many. We must continue to be vigilant in the protection of children who are in the care of the Church. The Secretariat hopes that diocesan participation in efforts aimed at building highly reliable cultures will trigger a renewed effort to strengthen the implementation of the *Charter*.

So much has been done in twelve years! Bishops, priests, and deacons are to be commended for their efforts. Victim assistance coordinators, safe environment coordinators, parish employees, and parish and school volunteers have spent hundreds of hours creating safe environments and their efforts should be recognized and applauded. We acknowledge their dedication and hard work and look forward to the day the Church is widely acknowledged to be the safest place for children.

# CHAPTER TWO

## STONEBRIDGE BUSINESS PARTNERS 2014 AUDIT REPORT

### OBJECTIVE

This Audit Report summarizes the results of the 2014 *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 2014 *Charter* audits represent the first year of the 2014-2016 audit cycle. This is the second cycle in which StoneBridge Business Partners (StoneBridge) is contracted to audit the 195 Catholic dioceses and eparchies in the United States. StoneBridge previously conducted the 2011-2013 *Charter* audits on behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the USCCB Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People (CPCYP), 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 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 2014, StoneBridge visited 59 dioceses and eparchies (“onsite audits”) and collected data (“data collection audits”) from 129 others. One diocese and six eparchies refused to participate in either type of audit and cannot be considered compliant with the *Charter*. Of the 59 dioceses/eparchies that received onsite audits during 2014, one eparchy was found noncompliant, but only with respect to one Article of the *Charter*. Of the 129 data collection audits performed, one diocese and one eparchy were unable to provide the requested data in its entirety. 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, 2013 through June 30, 2014. 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.
- “Children and youth” includes all students enrolled in diocesan/eparchial schools and religious education classes.
- “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 age 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 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 2014, 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 audit methodology and documentation requirements in detail.

Whether participating in an onsite 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 StoneBridge and the SCYP and were 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, the outcome of any investigations, 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 or background evaluations, if applicable
- programs used for training in 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 2, 2014. Extensions were granted to forty-one locations, down from forty-nine in the prior audit year.

In addition to Chart A/B and Chart C/D, onsite audit participants are required to complete the Audit Instrument, which allows a diocese or eparchy to explain its specific compliance activities related to 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 onsite 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 onsite, 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 onsite. 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) relates to *Charter* implementation. In addition, we may interview survivors of abuse and accused clerics, if any are willing. Our auditors interviewed one victim in 2014. 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 eighty-six parishes/schools in twenty-four dioceses and eparchies, which marked an 8 percent decrease in participation from last year. Based upon our conversations and review of documents,

the decrease in parish audits can be attributed to an increasing number of dioceses conducting their own parish audits. Of the 188 locations participating this year, 109 indicated that they perform parish audits in some form on a regular basis. Please refer to Appendix I for a list of dioceses that requested parish audits by StoneBridge auditors in 2014.

This year, in an effort to offer more comprehensive information to dioceses and eparchies about *Charter* knowledge and implementation efforts at the parish level, StoneBridge and the SCYP developed a web-based parish audit survey. 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-two *Charter*-related questions, such as “How would you rate the level of comprehension of *Charter* 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 Church?” 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 onsite, auditors reviewed and summarized the results of the survey and shared these with diocesan/eparchial personnel. Of the fifty-nine dioceses/eparchies that received onsite audits during 2014, thirteen dioceses and one eparchy elected to use the parish survey. 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 in the survey were communicated to diocesan/eparchial personnel during the audit for their consideration.

At the completion of each onsite 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 onsite 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.” This year, at the request of certain bishops, we made receipt of a Management Letter optional. Eight 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 onsite 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 onsite audits during 2014 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 2013/2014 *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 onsite audit.

## 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 five major scope limitations to the performance of our audits:

### *I. Hesitation and/or unwillingness to participate in parish audits or surveys*

As in prior years, 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. 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 clarify further 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 supporting data on whether their clergy, employees, and volunteers working 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 complete 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 onsite or via data collection, is failure to participate. In 2014, six locations refused to participate in either the onsite or the 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 for Chaldeans
- Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark for Syrians
- Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg for Armenians
- Eparch of Stamford for Ukrainians
- Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn

## V. Incomplete and/or inaccurate audit documents

Audit documents and instructions were sent electronically to all dioceses and eparchies in May of 2014. 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 onsite.



## AUDIT FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

### Article 1

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 for professional therapy services. Healing Masses used to be another common method of outreach, but we noted a decline in the number of healing Masses offered this year. Dioceses and eparchies attributed this to decreasing demand for such Masses from victims/survivors. Personnel responsible for organizing the events encountered difficulties getting victims/survivors to attend, despite widespread advertisement.

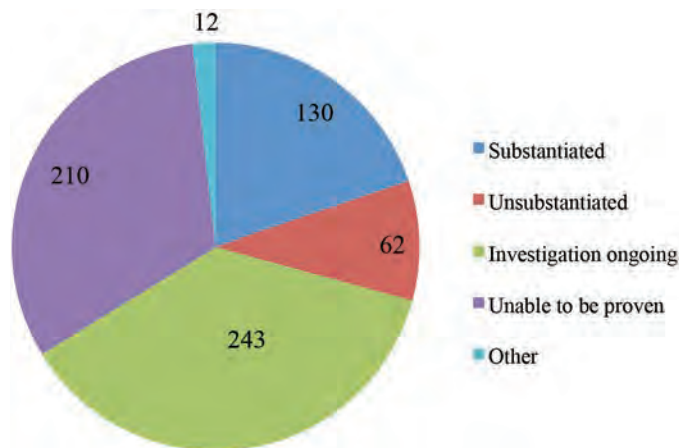
When an allegation involves more than one diocese and/or eparchy, both locations may have some responsibility for coordinating outreach. As a result, both locations report the same allegation on Chart A/B, and StoneBridge must attempt to cross-check the reporting of these allegations, so that they are not counted twice in this report. During this analysis, we found that recently established dioceses—those that were created in the 1970s or later out of a larger diocese—did not provide as much outreach to victims/survivors as their older counterparts. When victims/survivors come forward with an allegation that predates the existence of a particular diocese, the allegation is referred to the “parent” diocese 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” diocese, both dioceses are obliged by the *Charter* to ensure that the survivor’s needs for healing and reconciliation are met. Both dioceses should make every effort to ensure survivors are

appropriately cared for and should maintain records of these efforts in victim/survivor files.

Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014, 620 survivors of child sexual abuse by clergy came forward in 124 Catholic dioceses and eparchies with 657 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 1920s to the present.

For the 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. 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, 2014, 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 1-1 below summarizes the status of the 657 allegations as of June 30, 2014.

**Chart 1-1: Status of Allegations as of June 30, 2014**



A total of 319 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 190 of the total allegations. The remaining 148 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 when 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 268 victims/survivors and their families who reported during this audit period. Continued support was provided to 1,595 victims/survivors and their families who reported abuse in prior audit periods.

As part of our audit procedures this year, 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 620 victims/survivors who reported during the audit period, 78 percent, or 483 of them were offered outreach. Outreach was not offered in instances where the victim stated in their report to the diocese or eparchy that they did not want any help, or when there was anonymous reporting, lack of contact information for the victim, or when victims came through an attorney or bankruptcy proceeding. Of the total who did receive an offer for outreach,

81 percent, or 390 of them were offered outreach within ten days of reporting the abuse, 8 percent, or 39 were offered outreach between eleven and thirty days of reporting, and 11 percent, or 54 individuals were above 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 a prompt response to allegations of sexual abuse of minors. All dioceses and eparchies visited in 2014 have written procedures for responding to allegations of sexual abuse of minors, though we found that six dioceses had policies and procedures that had not been reviewed or revised since at least 2011, the year the most recent *Charter* revision was published. One diocese had not reviewed its policy since 2003. We suggested in our Management Letters that dioceses 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 eleven 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 “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 onsite visits, we noted thirteen 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 onsite.

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. One eparchy was found noncompliant with Article 2 because at the time of our audit, the eparch had not convened his review board in several years.

This indicated that the review board had not been “regularly” reviewing policies and procedures for responding to allegations, as required by Article 2. The eparch has since committed to convening a meeting of their review board during the 2014-2015 audit period.

Based upon our discussions with review board members, 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.

We noted this year that most dioceses visited convened their review boards 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, all dioceses and eparchies should continue using the available resources and talents of their review board members to ensure that *Charter*-related policies and procedures are current and should take time to review recent events occurring in the dioceses around them. Review boards may also want to discuss the dioceses/eparchy’s approach to allegation intake and monitoring of accused clerics to brainstorm any areas for improvement.

## 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 two dioceses 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, dioceses should explicitly state whether confidentiality was required, and if it was, whether the request was made by the victim/survivor.

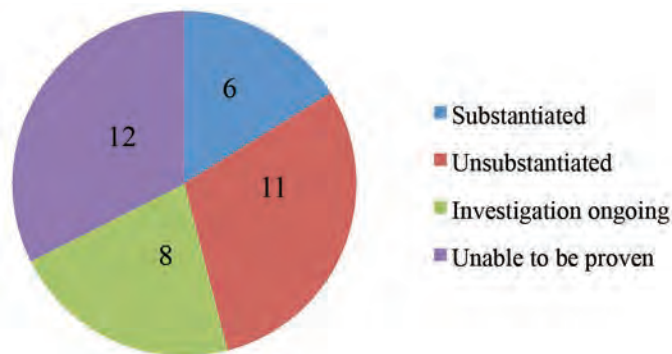
### Article 4

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 allegations of child sexual abuse by clergy reported during the audit period, thirty-seven involved current minors. Of this total, eighteen were male, sixteen were female, and three victims’ genders were unknown. 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 thirty-seven claims made by current year minors as of June 30, 2014.

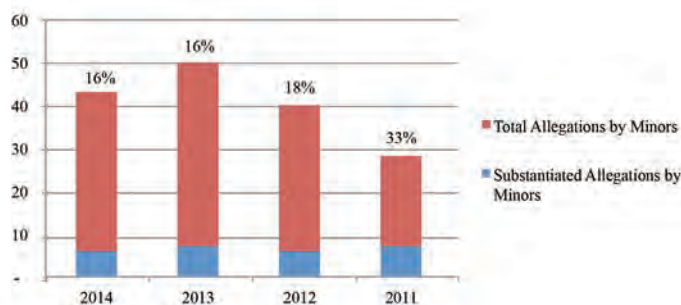
**Chart 4-1: Status of Claims by Minors as of June 30, 2014**



Of the thirty-seven allegations made by current minors, six were substantiated as of June 30, 2014. Two of the six were against a cleric who had been removed from ministry in 2005. Twenty-three of the thirty-seven allegations from minors were either unsubstantiated or unable to be proven, and the clerics remain in active ministry as of June 30, 2014. Investigations continued for eight of the allegations as of June 30, 2014.

Chart 4-2 compares the percentage of substantiated claims by minors to total claims by minors over the last four years, which has decreased since 2011.

**Chart 4-2: Substantiated Allegations Versus Total Allegations Made by Current Minors, 2011–2014**



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, and prohibitions concerning the exercise of public ministry, where applicable), and interviews with diocesan/eparchial personnel.

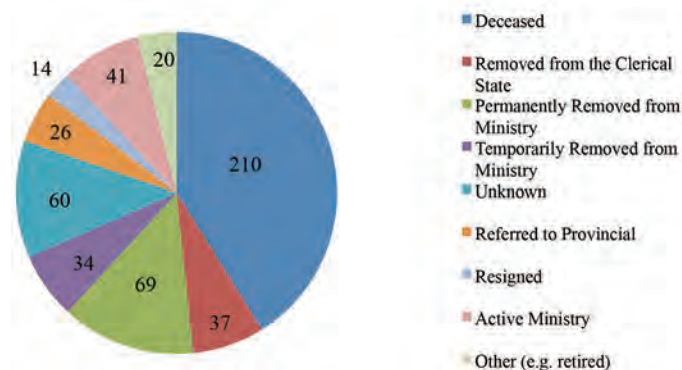
The number of clerics accused of sexual abuse of a minor during the audit period totaled 511. The accused clerics were categorized as priests, deacons, unknown, or other. An “unknown” cleric is used for a situation in which the victim/survivor was unable to provide the identity of the accused. “Other” represents a cleric from another diocese for which details of ordination and/or incardination were not provided. Accused priests for the audit period totaled 457. Of this total, 339 were diocesan priests, 88 belonged to a religious order, and 30 were incardinated in another diocese. There were eleven deacons accused during the audit period, all of which were incardinated in a specific diocese. Allegations brought against “unknown” clerics totaled thirty-nine, and four “other” clerics were accused. Of the total identified clerics, 213 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 2013-2014 audit periods, six allegations were brought against clerics for possession of child pornography. Of the total, three were removed from ministry after the allegations were substantiated, one priest died two weeks after the allegation was made, and two priests remained in active ministry. Of the two priests still in ministry, one was falsely accused, and the investigation of the other was ongoing. These six clerics are included in the statistics presented in Chart 5-1.

The following Chart summarizes the status of the 511 accused clerics as of June 30, 2014.

**Chart 5-1: Status of Accused Clerics as of June 30, 2014**



Article 5 requires that accused clerics be accorded the same rights as victims during the 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 two 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 that an allegation against a cleric was unsubstantiated; however, most felt that

such an announcement could not undo any damage done to the cleric's name. 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.

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 permanently removed from ministry, the cleric remains incardinated in the diocese/eparchy. 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 were able to provide some guidance to dioceses about the monitoring programs we have observed.

All dioceses and eparchies visited in 2014 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 by interviews with diocesan/eparchial personnel.

In the same way that 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 twelve 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 four dioceses that have a Code of Conduct in place but do not enforce their policy of requiring all clergy, employees, and volunteers to read and sign the Code of Conduct as acknowledgement of receipt. We issued Management Letter comments to these dioceses to encourage them to communicate updated policies by requiring a signed acknowledgement.

### 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 eight dioceses/eparchies that had either outdated policies regarding communications or no formal policy for communications at all. Outdated policies include those that did not match current diocesan/eparchial practices, or in one case, incorrectly quoted the *Charter*. We recommended in our Management Letters that these dioceses take a closer look at their communication policies to ensure that 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, what information is required to complete each step, and when completion is expected. 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

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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, 2013 to June 30, 2014 included the following bishops, shown with the Regions they represented, and consultants:

## November 2012–November 2013

### Bishops

Bishop R. Daniel Conlon, Chair  
*Term expires in 2014*

Bishop Peter Uglietto (I)  
*Term expires November 2014*

Region II not represented

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak (III)  
*Term expires November 2015*

Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski (IV)  
*Term expired November 2013*

Bishop Richard Stika (V)  
*Term expired November 2013*

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

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

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

Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. (IX)  
*Term expires November 2014*

Region X not represented

Bishop Clarence Silva (XI)  
*Term expired November 2013*

Bishop Edward J. Burns (XII)  
*Term expires November 2014*

Bishop James S. Wall (XIII)  
*Term expires November 2014*

Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito  
*Term expires November 2014*

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

## November 2013–November 2014

Bishop R. Daniel Conlon, Chair  
*Term expires in 2014*

Bishop Peter Uglietto (I)  
*Term expired November 2014*

Bishop Terry R. LaValley (II)  
*Term expires November 2016*

Bishop Mark Bartchak (III)  
*Term expires November 2015*

Region IV not represented

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

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

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

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

Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. (IX)  
*Term expired November 2014*

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

Bishop Thomas A. Daly (XI)  
*Term expires November 2016*

Bishop Edward J. Burns (XII)  
*Term expired November 2014*

Bishop Eduardo A. Nevares (XIII)  
*Term expires November 2015*

Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito (XIV)  
*Term expired November 2014*

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

## Consultants

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

Rev. Msgr. Stephen Rossetti

Fr. John Edmunds, ST  
*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*

Sr. Mary Ann Walsh, RSM  
*Director*  
*Office of Media Relations*

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

Dr. Barbara Ann Cusack  
*Chancellor*  
*Archdiocese of Milwaukee*

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

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

Rev. Msgr. Stephen Rossetti

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*

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

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

Ms. Helen Osman  
*Secretary*  
*Office of Communications*

Ms. Siobhan Verbeek  
*Director*  
*Canonical Affairs*

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 2014 Anglophone Conference

Bishop R. Daniel Conlon with Dr. Francesco Cesareo, Chair of the National Review Board, and Deacon Bernie Nojadera, executive director of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection attended the fifteenth Anglophone Conference in Rome, Italy, in July 2014. The episcopal conference of Ireland hosted the conference with the theme: *Safeguarding Children.*

## 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*.

## 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 eparchs 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 2014 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 victims/survivors support and referral to resources that can aid them in their healing. Staff participates in a variety of collaboration efforts with other child serving organizations.

The third annual web-accessible *Charter* Implementation Training was held on October 6, 2014, with over 140 attendees. Archbishop Blase Cupich gave a reflection on the *Charter*, reminding the group that when decisions need to be made the child needs to be in the center of the room. Other topics included the creation of highly reliable cultures, canon law and the *Charter*, the lasting effects of childhood trauma, a review of the training modules from the Causes and Context Study, and spiritual healing for survivors.

The SCYP provides staff support for the CPCYP and the NRB and its committees. The SCYP provides monthly reports to the members of the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People (CPCYP) and the National Review Board (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, 2013–June 30, 2014, 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 Staff Assistant 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 the 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 in January 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, staff assistant, 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.

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

Dr. Angelo Giardino  
*Term expires June 2015*

Judge M. Katherine Huffman  
*Term expires June 2018*

Mrs. Coleen Kelly Mast  
*Term expires June 2015*

Mr. Michael Montelongo  
*Term expires June 2016*

Ms. Nelle Moriarty  
*Term expires June 2018*

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. Stephen Zappala, Jr.  
*Term expired June 2014*

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. Angelo Giardino, 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 Mrs. Coleen Mast, 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 2015.

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

Although all dioceses and eparchies visited in 2014 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 2014, 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. Ten dioceses/eparchies visited this year were unable to produce a promulgation letter as evidence of the bishop's approval of the current training programs used. Two dioceses had promulgation letters signed by a previous bishop, and two other 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 2014 safe environment training data below, divided by category, from the 188 dioceses and eparchies that participated in either an onsite or data collection audit.

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

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 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.

Priests	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total priests	35,470	36,131	38,199	38,374
Total priests trained	35,319	35,914	38,006	38,150
Percent trained	99.6%	99.4%	99.5%	99.4%

Deacons	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total deacons	16,164	16,245	15,796	15,342
Total deacons trained	16,089	16,129	15,680	15,259
Percent trained	99.5%	99.3%	99.3%	99.5%

Candidates for Ordination	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total candidates	6,602	6,458	6,372	6,474
Total candidates trained	6,503	6,360	6,232	6,385
Percent trained	98.5%	98.5%	97.8%	98.6%

Educators	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total educators	161,669	168,782	168,067	159,689
Total educators trained	160,757	167,953	166,311	158,390
Percent trained	99.4%	99.5%	99.0%	99.2%

Other Employees	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total other employees	256,668	257,222	258,380	249,133
Total other employees trained	250,087	251,146	249,918	240,180
Percent trained	97.4%	97.6%	96.7%	96.4%

Volunteers	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total volunteers	1,971,201	1,936,983	1,920,001	1,850,149
Total volunteers trained	1,931,872	1,902,143	1,876,558	1,781,849
Percent trained	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 108 dioceses and eparchies that required a refresher training as of June 30, 2014; many more stated they are in the process of creating a refresher course. 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. All dioceses and eparchies visited this audit year were found compliant with Article 13.

As with Article 12, inefficient or poorly managed database systems have failed to keep accurate records of whether individuals working with minors



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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 three dioceses that should reassess the effectiveness of their database with respect to tracking background check data.

We compiled the 2014 background evaluation data below, divided by category, from the 188 dioceses and eparchies that participated in either an onsite or data collection audit.

Priests	2014	2013	2012	2011
Dioceses/eparchies participating	188	191	189	187
Total priests	35,470	36,131	38,199	38,374
Total priests background checked	35,308	35,970	38,045	38,129
Percent checked	99.5%	99.6%	99.6%	99.4%
Deacons	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total deacons	16,164	16,245	15,796	15,342
Total deacons background checked	16,006	16,199	15,695	15,291
Percent checked	99.0%	99.7%	99.4%	99.7%
Candidates for Ordination	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total candidates	6,602	6,458	6,372	6,474
Total candidates background checked	6,568	6,428	6,320	6,386
Percent checked	99.5%	99.5%	99.2%	98.6%
Educators	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total educators	161,669	168,782	168,067	159,689
Total educators background checked	160,273	168,013	164,935	158,855
Percent checked	99.1%	99.5%	98.1%	99.5%
Other Employees	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total other employees	256,668	257,222	258,380	249,133
Total other employees background checked	251,189	253,587	250,092	241,063
Percent checked	97.9%	98.6%	96.8%	96.8%
Volunteers	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total volunteers	1,971,201	1,936,983	1,920,001	1,850,149
Total volunteers background checked	1,931,612	1,898,136	1,861,160	1,790,178
Percent checked	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. Some dioceses rescreen annually, and others rescreen somewhere between every 2-10 years. As in years past, we recommended to thirteen dioceses and eparchies that do not rescreen that they may want to consider it. Our standard recommendation is every 5-7 years if subsequent arrest reports are not provided by the background check agencies.

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 nine dioceses/eparchies that did not have a well-defined policy regarding the collection and retention of letters of suitability. Our parish audits revealed that four of these dioceses/eparchies had pastors who were unclear about diocesan/eparchial requirements for collection and retention of letters of suitability. We issued Management Letters to all nine suggesting that the diocese/eparchy 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. No compliance issues were noted with respect to Article 14. However, we communicated to four dioceses that needed to revise their policies to include specific procedures for both transfers in and transfers out.

### 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 one eparchy that did not communicate with the religious orders during the audit period and another diocese that did not document these meetings. Management Letter comments were issued to both 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 2014 CARA survey, which was modified this year to conform to the *Charter* audit fiscal period. During our examination, in a few instances, errors were noted while comparing Chart A/B to the CARA responses.

### 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 seminars, textbooks used for the formation of candidates for the permanent diaconate, and brochures advertising priestly retreats. All dioceses and eparchies audited during 2014 were found compliant with Article 17. However, we did note two dioceses that struggled with staffing and funding problems in departments responsible for ongoing formation for clergy. While the dioceses 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, which 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 email addresses to conduct parish or other church-related activities, even though the diocese or eparchy provided those individuals with a diocesan or parish sponsored email address. We recommend that dioceses/eparchies require the use of "official" email addresses for parish or other church activities to allow for better oversight of electronic communications.
- 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 some 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 updates 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 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 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.
- As this was our first year of the second audit cycle, we were revisiting dioceses and eparchies that were audited in 2011. Based upon our audits for 2014, we noted a significant number of dioceses and eparchies that

did not implement certain recommendations we made during our last 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.

## 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.

## **APPENDIX I: DIOCESES/EPARCHIES PARTICIPATING IN PARISH AUDITS IN 2014**

- Diocese of Arlington
- Diocese of Austin
- Archdiocese of Boston
- Diocese of Buffalo
- Diocese of Burlington
- Archdiocese of Cincinnati
- Diocese of Davenport
- Archdiocese of Detroit
- Diocese of Gaylord
- Archdiocese of Hartford
- Diocese of Helena
- Diocese of Joliet
- Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- Diocese of Orange
- Diocese of Pittsburgh
- Diocese of Portland, ME
- Diocese of Rockville Centre
- Diocese of Salt Lake City
- Diocese of Scranton
- Diocese of Shreveport
- Diocese of Sioux City
- Diocese of Spokane
- Diocese of Springfield, IL
- Diocese of Syracuse

## **APPENDIX II: DIOCESES/EPARCHIES PARTICIPATING IN ONSITE AUDITS IN 2014**

- Diocese of Albany
- Diocese of Allentown
- Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
- Diocese of Arlington
- Diocese of Austin
- Diocese of Baton Rouge
- Diocese of Bismarck
- Archdiocese of Boston
- Diocese of Brownsville
- Diocese of Buffalo
- Diocese of Burlington
- Diocese of Charleston
- Diocese of Charlotte
- Diocese of Cheyenne
- Archdiocese of Chicago
- Archdiocese of Cincinnati
- Diocese of Dallas
- Diocese of Davenport
- Archdiocese of Denver
- Archdiocese of Detroit
- Diocese of Duluth
- Diocese of El Paso
- Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix
- Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Detroit
- Diocese of Evansville
- Diocese of Ft. Worth
- Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
- Diocese of Gaylord
- Diocese of Green Bay
- Archdiocese of Hartford
- Diocese of Helena
- Diocese of Jefferson City
- Diocese of Joliet
- Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- Diocese of Monterey
- Diocese of Nashville
- Diocese of Norwich
- Archdiocese of Omaha
- Diocese of Orange
- Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma
- Diocese of Phoenix
- Diocese of Pittsburgh
- Diocese of Portland, ME
- Diocese of Reno
- Diocese of Richmond
- Diocese of Rockville Centre
- Diocese of Salt Lake City
- Diocese of San Angelo
- Diocese of Scranton
- Diocese of Shreveport
- Diocese of Sioux City
- Diocese of Sioux Falls
- Diocese of Spokane
- Diocese of Springfield, IL
- St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy
- Diocese of St. Petersburg
- Diocese of Syracuse
- Diocese of Trenton
- Diocese of Youngstown

# SECTION II

2014



# CHAPTER THREE

## 2014 CARA SURVEY OF ALLEGATIONS AND COSTS: A SUMMARY REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

At 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 of 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. Therefore, beginning this year, the annual survey of allegations and costs captures all allegations reported to dioceses and eparchies between July 1 and June 30. This means that allegations that were reported to dioceses and eparchies between July 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013 appear in both the 2013 and 2014 *CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs*. To

preclude double counting, this 2014 *CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs* does not present trend data in tables as was the case in previous reports. For discussion of trends in the data, refer to the 2013 *CARA 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 2014 *CARA 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 2013. 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 clerical and mixed religious institutes to complete a similar survey for their congregations, provinces, or monasteries.

CARA completed data collection for the 2014 annual survey on December 6, 2014. All but one of the 195 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB completed the survey, for a response rate of 99.5 percent. The Diocese of Lincoln declined to participate. A total of 158 of the 211 clerical and mixed religious institutes that belong to CMSM responded to the survey, for a response rate of 75 percent. The overall response rate for dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes was 87 percent, about the same response rate as in previous years for this survey.



# 2014 Annual Report: Findings and Recommendations

CARA then prepared the national level summary tables and graphs of the findings for the period from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

## DIOCESES AND EPARCHIES

### The Data Collection Process

Dioceses and eparchies began submitting their data for the 2014 survey in September 2014. CARA and the Secretariat contacted every diocese or eparchy that had not sent in a contact name by late September 2014 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 December 6, 2014, all but one of the 195 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB had responded to the survey, for a response rate of 99.5 percent. The Diocese of Lincoln once again declined to participate. The participation rate among dioceses and eparchies has been nearly unanimous each year of this survey; starting at 93 percent in 2004 and 94 percent in 2005, and has remained at 99 percent since 2006.

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, 2013, and June 30, 2014, they received 294 new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a diocesan or eparchial priest or deacon. These allegations were made by 291 individuals against 211 priests or deacons.

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

Victims	291
Allegations	294
Offenders	211

Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

Of the 294 new allegations reported during this reporting period (July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014), two allegations (less than 1 percent) involved children under the age of eighteen in 2014. Nearly all of the other allegations were made by adults who are alleging abuse when they were minors.

### 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 Protection of Children and Young People*. Table 2 presents the number of new allegations that were unsubstantiated or proven to be false between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014. There were 133 new allegations received by dioceses or eparchies between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014, that were unsubstantiated or determined to be false by June 30, 2014. In addition, fifty allegations received prior to July 1, 2013 were unsubstantiated or determined to be false between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

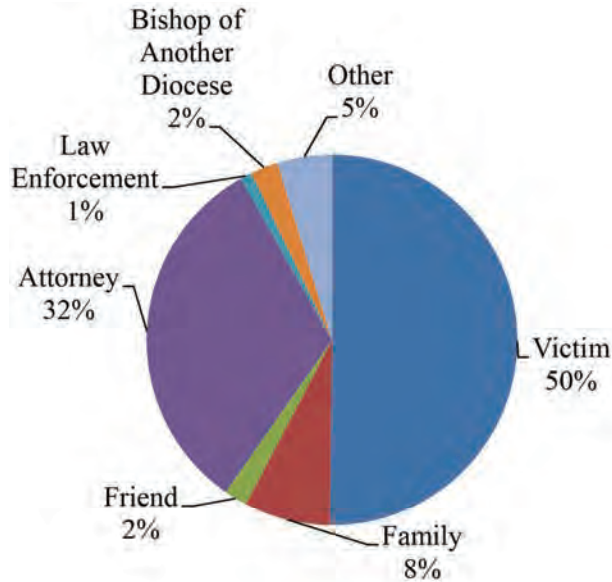
**Table 2. Unsubstantiated or False Allegations Reported Between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, by Dioceses and Eparchies**

New allegations made between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, that were unsubstantiated or proven false	133
Allegations made before July 1, 2013, that were unsubstantiated or proven false by June 30, 2014	50

Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 1 illustrates the way in which the 294 new credible allegations of abuse were reported to the dioceses or eparchies between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014. Half of new allegations were reported by the victim and about one-third (32 percent) were reported by an attorney.

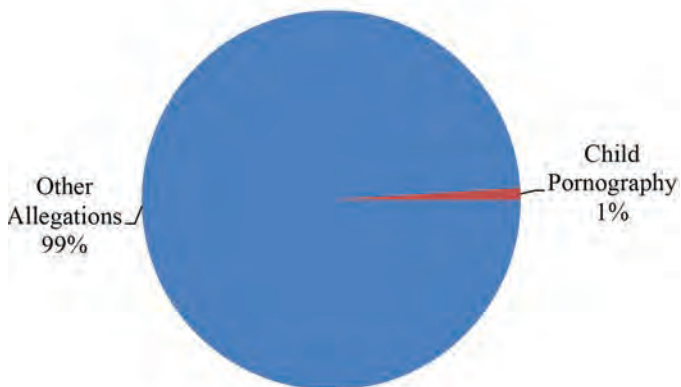
**Figure 1. Method of Reporting Allegations of Abuse: Dioceses and Eparchies**



Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 2 presents the percentage of all new allegations of abuse that were cases involving solely child pornography. Of the 294 total allegations, three allegations involved child pornography.

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

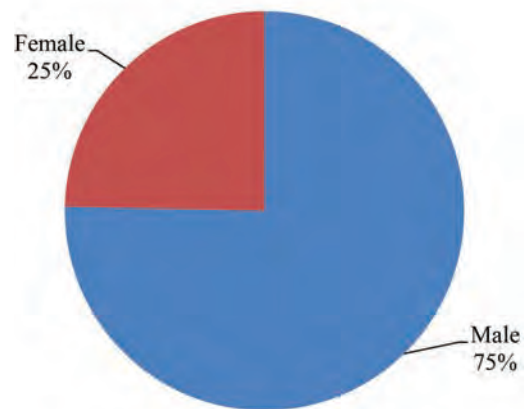


Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

*Victims, Offenses, and Offenders*

The sex of six of the 294 alleged victims reported between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, was not identified in the allegation. Among those for whom the sex of the victim was reported, 75 percent (217 victims) were male and 25 percent (71 victims) were female. This proportion is illustrated in Figure 3.

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

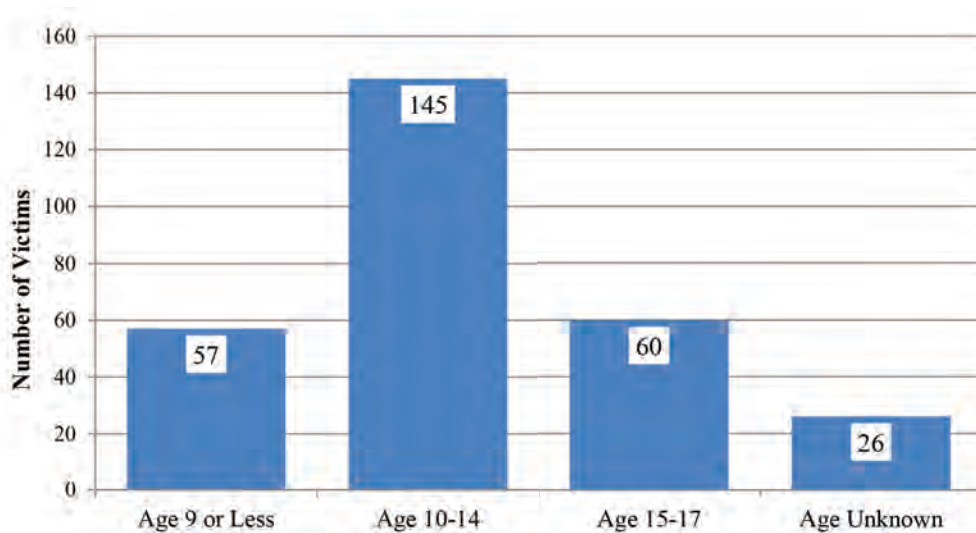


Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

Half of victims (50 percent) were between the ages of ten and fourteen when the alleged abuse began. About the same proportion of the victims were between the ages of fifteen and seventeen (21 percent) or were under age ten (20 percent). The age could not be determined for a tenth of victims (9 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**

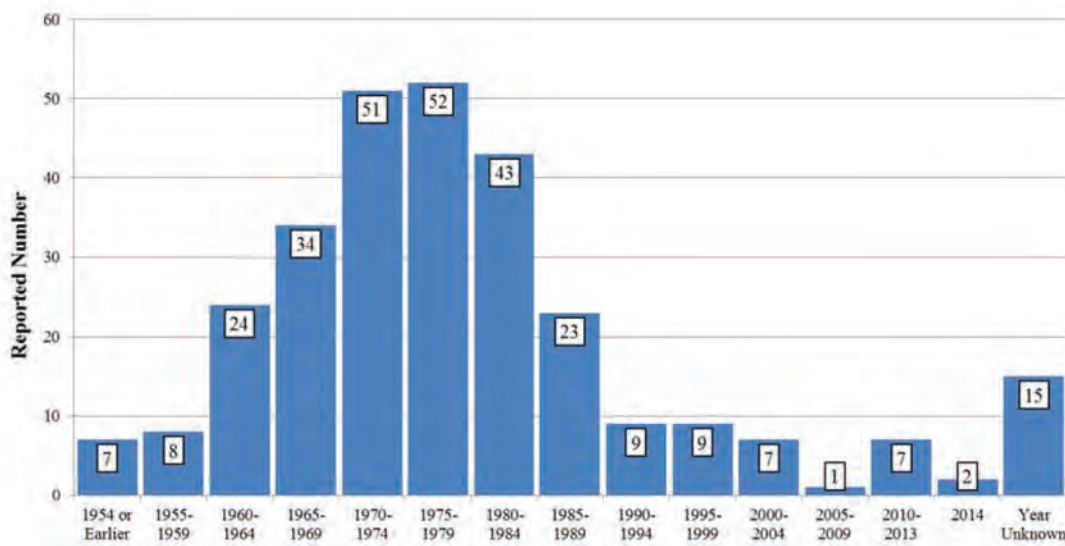


Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 5 shows the years in which the abuse reported between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, was alleged to have occurred or begun. Two-thirds of new allegations (75 percent) occurred or began between 1960 and 1984. The most common time period for allegations reported was 1975-1979

(52 allegations) or 1970-1974 (51 allegations). For fifteen new allegations (5 percent) reported between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, no time frame for the alleged abuse could be determined by the allegation.

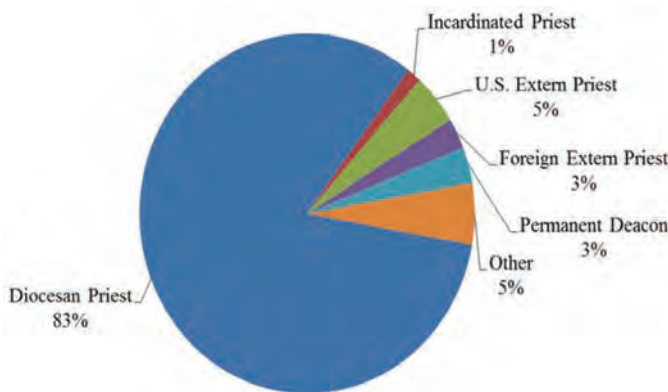
**Figure 5. Year Alleged Offense Occurred or Began: Dioceses and Eparchies**



Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

Of the 211 diocesan or eparchial priests or deacons that were identified in new allegations between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, most (83 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, 1 percent of alleged perpetrators were priests from outside the diocese, who were incardinated into that diocese or eparchy, and 8 percent were extern priests (5 percent from another US diocese and 3 percent from a diocese outside the United States), who were serving in the diocese temporarily. Just seven of the alleged perpetrators (3 percent) identified in new allegations were permanent deacons. Five 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.

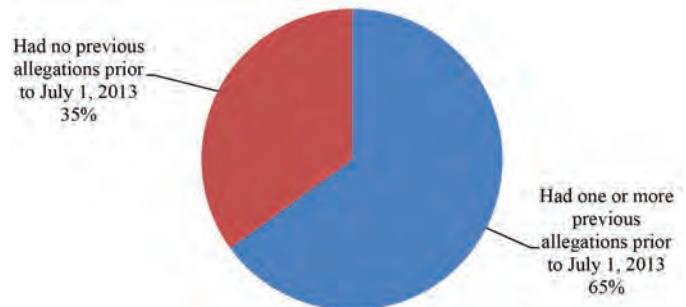
**Figure 6. Ecclesial Status of Alleged Perpetrator: Diocese and Eparchies**



Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

Almost two-thirds (65 percent) of the 211 priests and deacons identified as alleged offenders between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014, had already been identified in prior allegations. Figure 7 depicts the proportion that had prior allegations.

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

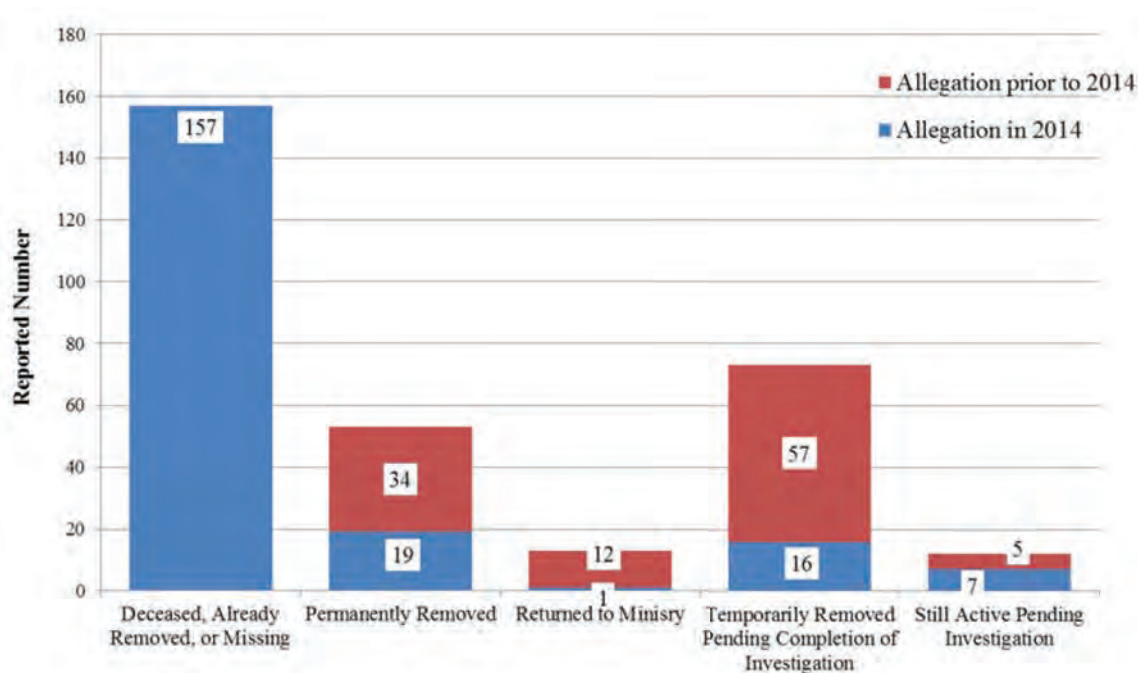


Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

Three-fourths of alleged offenders (74 percent) identified between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, were deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing. Another nineteen priests or deacons (9 percent) were permanently removed from ministry between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014. In addition to these nineteen offenders who were permanently removed from ministry between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, another thirty-four priests or deacons who had been identified in allegations of abuse *before* July 1, 2013, were permanently removed from ministry between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014.

Thirteen priests or deacons were returned to ministry between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, based on the resolution of allegations (one allegation during this time period and twelve that were identified before July 1, 2013). In addition, seventy-three priests or deacons (sixteen who were identified between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, and fifty-seven who were identified before July 1, 2013) have been temporarily removed from ministry pending completion of an investigation. Notwithstanding the year in which the abuse was reported, twelve diocesan and eparchial clergy remain in active ministry pending a preliminary investigation of an allegation (five who were identified between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014, and seven who were identified prior to July 1, 2013). Figure 8 shows the current status of alleged offenders.

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



Source: 2014 CARA 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 \$106,499,180 between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, for costs related to allegations. This includes payments for allegations reported in previous years. Forty-two 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**

All settlements paid to victims	\$56,987,635
Other payments to victims (e.g., therapy)	\$7,176,376
Payments for support for offenders (including living expenses, legal expenses, therapy)	\$12,281,089
Payments for attorneys' fees	\$26,163,298
Other allegation-related costs	\$3,890,782
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$106,499,180</b>

Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

More than half of the payments made by dioceses and eparchies between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, (54 percent) were for settlements to victims. Attorneys' fees constituted a quarter (25 percent)

of the total cost.<sup>1</sup> Support for offenders (including therapy, living expenses, legal expenses, etc.) amounted to another 12 percent of allegation-related costs (\$12,281,089). An additional 7 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 (\$3,890,782 or 4 percent) are payments for items such as investigations of allegations, litigation costs, therapy and other support for family members of victims, monitoring services for offenders, advertising, insurance premiums, diocesan review board, and USCCB compliance audit costs.

Dioceses and eparchies who responded to the question reported that 14 percent of the total costs related to allegations between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, were covered by diocesan insurance.

In addition to allegation-related expenditures, at least \$28,868,934 was spent by dioceses and eparchies for child protection efforts such as safe environment coordinators, training programs, and background checks. Table 4 presents the allegation-related costs and child protection expenditures paid by dioceses and eparchies between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014.

**Table 4. Costs Related to Child Protection Efforts and to Allegations by Dioceses and Eparchies (Paid Between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014)**

Total amounts for all child protection efforts, including SEC/VAC salaries and expenses, training programs, background checks, etc.	<b>\$28,868,934</b>
Total costs related to allegations	<b>\$106,499,180</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$135,368,114</b>

Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

Altogether, dioceses and eparchies reported \$135,368,114 in total costs related to child

protection efforts as well as costs related to allegations between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014.

## CLERICAL AND MIXED RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES

The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) also encouraged the major superiors of clerical and mixed religious institutes to complete a survey for their congregations, provinces, or monasteries. 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. CMSM sent a letter and a copy of the survey to all member major superiors in early September 2014, requesting their participation. CARA and CMSM also sent several reminders by e-mail to major superiors to encourage them to respond. By December 19, 2014, CARA received responses from 158 of the 215 clerical and mixed religious institutes that belong to CMSM, for a response rate of 73 percent. This is very similar to the response for previous years of this survey, which was 73 percent in 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 Clerical and Mixed Religious Institutes

The responding clerical and mixed religious institutes reported that between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, they received forty new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor committed by a priest or deacon of the community. These allegations were made against thirty-four individuals who were priest or deacon members of the community at the time the offense was alleged to have occurred. Table 5 presents these numbers.

<sup>1</sup> Attorneys’ fees include all costs for attorneys paid by dioceses and eparchies between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor.



**Table 5. New Credible Allegations Reported in Fiscal Year 2014 by Religious Institutes**

Victims	39
Allegations	40
Offenders	34

Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

Of the forty new allegations reported by religious institutes between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, none involved a child under the age of eighteen in 2014. The allegations were made by adults who are alleging abuse when they were minors.

### 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 6 presents the number of new allegations that were determined to be unsubstantiated or proven false between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014. Religious institutes reported twenty-one new allegations that were unsubstantiated or proven to be false by June 30, 2014. In addition, eleven allegations received prior to July 1, 2013 were unsubstantiated or proven to be false between June 30, 2013, and July 1, 2014.

**Table 6. Unsubstantiated or False Allegations Reported between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 by Religious Institutes**

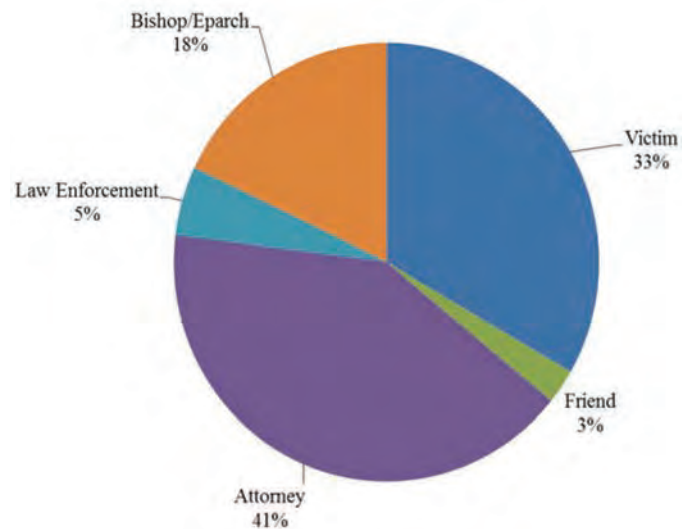
New allegations made between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, that were unsubstantiated or proven false	21
Allegations made before July 1, 2013, that were unsubstantiated or proven false by June 30, 2014	11

Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 9 displays the way in which the forty new credible allegations of abuse were reported to the

religious institutes between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014. A third of allegations (33 percent) were reported by the victim. Four in ten (41 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 18 percent of allegations. No allegations were reported by a family member, 3 percent were reported by a friend and 5 percent by law enforcement.

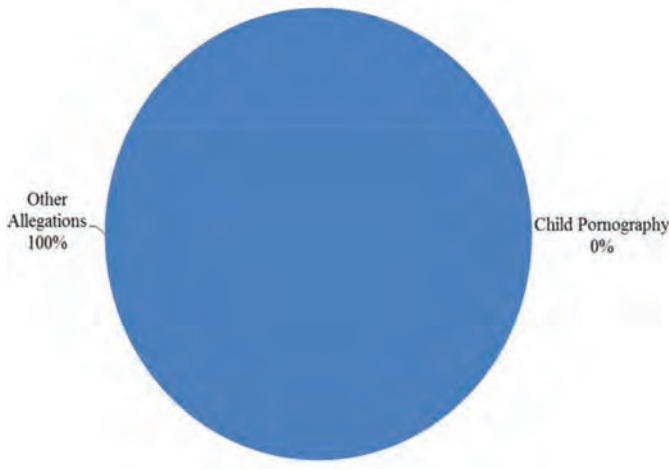
**Figure 9. Method of Reporting Allegations of Abuse: Religious Institutes**



Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

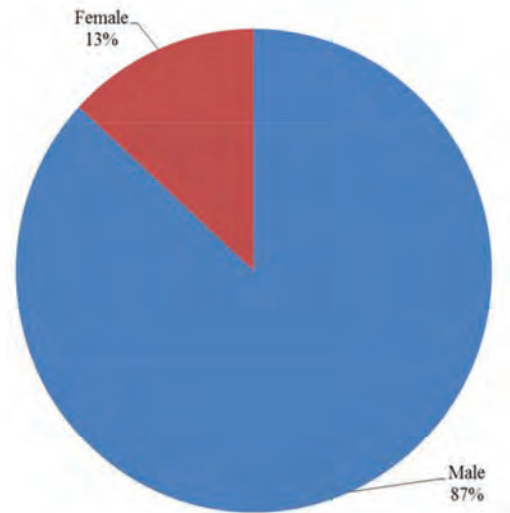
None of the forty new allegations was a case solely involving child pornography, as is shown in Figure 10.

**Figure 10. Percentage of Allegations Involving Only Child Pornography: Religious Institutes**



Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

**Figure 11. Sex of Abuse Victim: Religious Institutes**



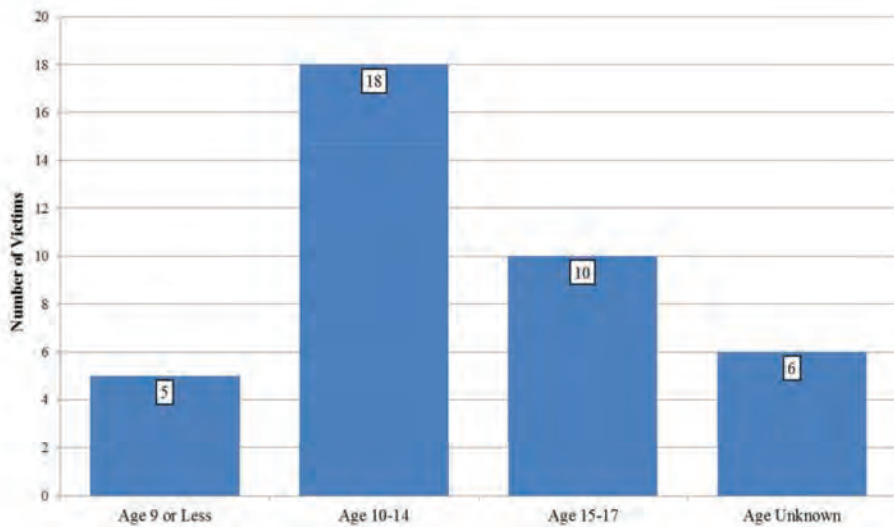
Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

### *Victims, Offenses, and Offenders*

Nearly all the alleged victims reported between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, were male (87 percent); just over one in ten (13 percent) were female. The proportion male and female is displayed in Figure 11.

Nearly half of victims (46 percent) were ages ten to fourteen when the alleged abuse began and about a quarter (26 percent) were between fifteen and seventeen. About one in ten (13 percent) was under age ten, and the age of the victim could not be determined for six of the new allegations (15 percent). Figure 12 presents the distribution of victims by age at the time the alleged abuse began.

**Figure 12. Age of Victim When Abuse Began: Religious Institutes**

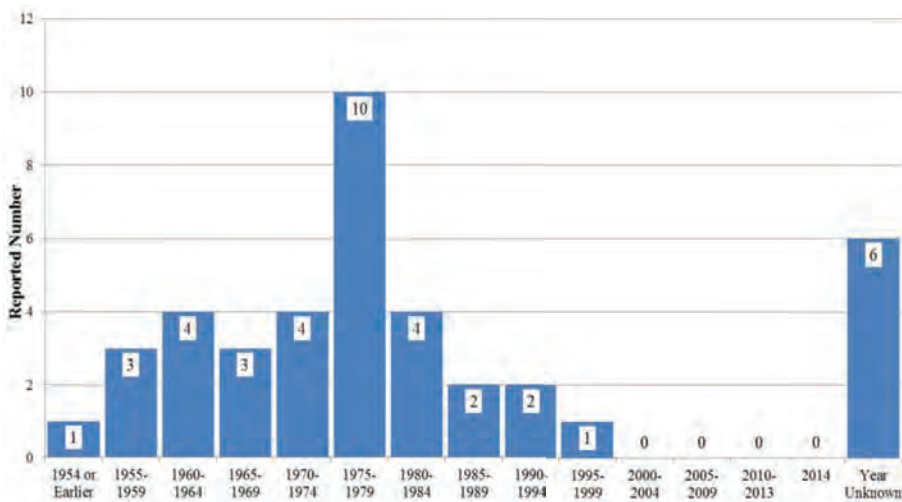


Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

Just over a quarter of new allegations reported between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, (28 percent) are alleged to have occurred or begun before 1970 and half (50 percent) were between 1970 and 1990. Religious institutes reported that 1975-1979 (10 allegations) was the most common time period for the alleged occurrences. Three of the new

allegations reported between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, (8 percent) were alleged to have occurred or begun since 1989. Figure 13 illustrates the years when the allegations reported between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, were said to have occurred or begun.

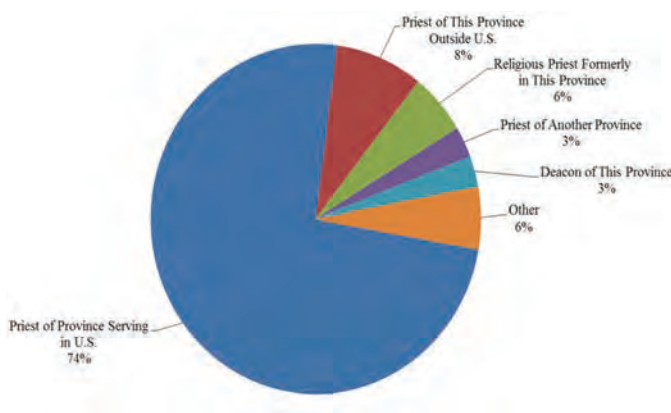
**Figure 13. Year Alleged Offense Occurred or Began: Religious Institutes**



Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

Of the thirty-four religious priests against whom new allegations were made between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, three-quarters (74 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. Figure 14 displays the ecclesial status of offenders at the time of the alleged abuse.

**Figure 14. Ecclesial Status of Alleged Perpetrator: Religious Institutes**

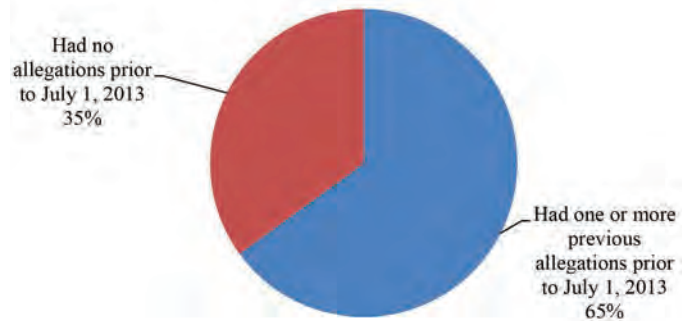


Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

Three alleged offenders (8 percent) were priests of a US province serving outside the United States, and two (6 percent) were religious priests formerly of the province but no longer members of the religious institute. One each (3 percent) was a priest of another province but serving in the province of the religious institute or was a deacon member of a religious institute.

Almost two-thirds of the religious priests against whom new allegations were made between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, 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, 2013. Figure 15 presents these proportions.

**Figure 15. Alleged Perpetrators with Prior Allegations: Religious Institutes**

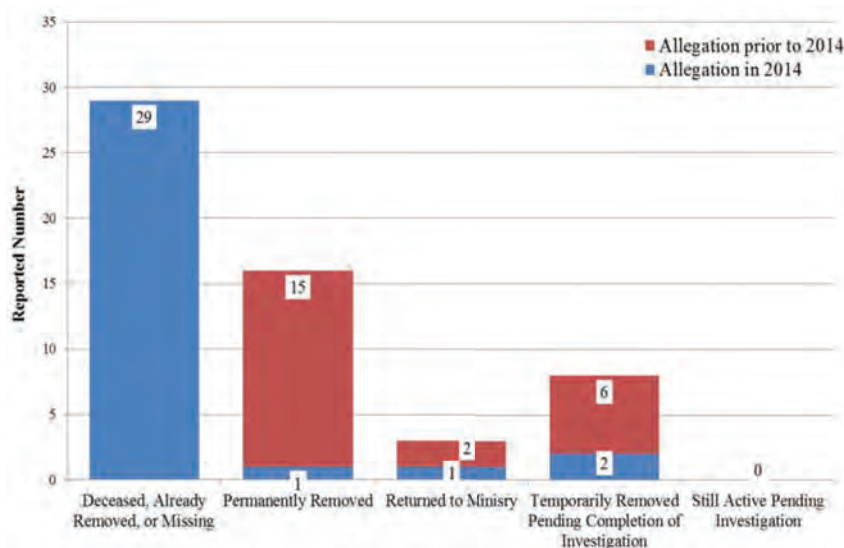


Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

More than four in five of the alleged offenders (85 percent) first identified between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, (twenty-nine priests) were deceased, had already been removed from ministry, or had already left the religious institute at the time the allegation was reported. Two religious priests or deacons (6 percent) identified as alleged offenders between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, were temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations, and one each was either permanently removed or was returned to active ministry.



## Figure 16. Current Status of Alleged Perpetrators: Religious Institutes



Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

In addition to the one offender identified between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, who was permanently removed from ministry during that period, another fifteen priests who had been identified in allegations of abuse *before* July 1, 2013, were permanently removed from ministry between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014.

Two priests were returned to ministry between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, based on the resolution of an allegation made during that period or earlier. In addition, six religious priests and deacons who were identified prior to July 1, 2013, 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 Clerical and Mixed Religious Institutes

The responding clerical and mixed religious institutes reported paying \$12,580,467 between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, for costs related to allegations. This includes costs paid during this period for allegations reported in previous years. Table 7 presents the payments by religious institutes across several categories of allegation-related expenses.

### Table 7. Costs Related to Allegations by Religious Institutes

All settlements paid to victims	\$5,950,438
Other payments to victims (e.g., therapy)	\$570,721
Payments for support for offenders (including living expenses, legal expenses, therapy)	\$3,121,958
Payments for attorneys' fees	\$2,611,220
Other allegation-related costs	\$326,130
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,580,467</b>

Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

Almost half of the payments by religious institutes between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014 (47 percent of all costs related to allegations reported by religious institutes) were for settlements to victims. Support for offenders (including therapy, living expenses, legal expenses, etc.) amounted to \$3,121,958 (25 percent). Attorneys' fees were an additional \$2.6 million (21 percent). An additional

\$570,721 (5 percent) was for other payments to victims (other than settlements).

Payments designated as “other costs” reported by religious institutes (\$326,130 or 3 percent of the grand total) included victim outreach and assistance programs, consultants and investigators, travel expenses, background checks, training, communication, and audit expenses.

Religious institutes that responded to the question reported that 3 percent of the total costs related to allegations between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, were covered by religious institutes’ insurance.

In addition to allegation-related expenditures, religious institutes spent almost three million dollars (\$2,798,806) for child protection efforts, such as training programs and background checks. Table 8 presents the allegation-related costs and child protection expenditures paid by religious institutes between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014.

**Table 8. Costs Related to Child Protection Efforts and to Allegations by Religious Institutes (Paid between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014)**

Total amounts for all child protection efforts, including SEC/VAC salaries and expenses, training programs, background checks, etc.	<b>\$2,798,806</b>
Total costs related to allegations	<b>\$12,580,467</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,379,273</b>

*Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs*

Altogether, religious institutes reported \$15,379,273 in total costs related to child protection efforts as well as costs related to allegations that were paid between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014.

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

Tables 9, 10, and 11 present the combined total responses of dioceses, eparchies, and clerical and mixed 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, 2013, and June 30, 2014. Dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes received 336 new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a diocesan, eparchial, or religious priest or deacon. These allegations were made by 330 individuals against 245 priests or deacons.

**Table 9. New Credible Allegations, Combined Totals**

Victims	<b>330</b>
Allegations	<b>336</b>
Offenders	<b>245</b>

*Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs*

Dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes reported paying out \$119,079,647 for costs related to allegations between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014. This includes payments for allegations reported in previous years. Table 10 presents the payments across several categories of allegation-related expenses.

**Table 10. Costs Related to Allegations Combined Totals**

All settlements paid to victims	\$62,938,073
Other payments to victims (e.g., therapy)	\$7,747,097
Payments for support for offenders (including living expenses, legal expenses, therapy)	\$15,403,047
Payments for attorneys' fees	\$28,774,518
Other allegation-related costs	\$4,216,912
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$119,079,647</b>

Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

More than half of the payments (53 percent) were for settlements to victims. Attorneys' fees accounted for an additional 24 percent. Support for offenders (including therapy, living expenses, legal expenses, etc.) amounted to 13 percent of these payments. An additional 7 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 \$31,667,740 for child protection efforts between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014. Dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes expended a total of \$119,079,647 for costs related to allegations between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014. Table 11 presents the combined allegation-related costs and child protection expenditures paid by dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes.

**Table 11. Costs Related to Child Protection Efforts and to Allegations Combined Totals (Paid between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014)**

Total amounts for all child protection efforts, including SEC/VAC salaries and expenses, training programs, background checks, etc.	\$31,667,740
Total costs related to allegations	\$119,079,647
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$150,747,387</b>

Source: 2014 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs

Altogether, dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes reported \$150,747,387 in total costs related to child protection efforts as well as costs related to allegations that were paid between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014.

# APPENDICES

2014



# 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.



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.



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

# 2014 Annual Report: Findings and Recommendations

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.

## 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 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

*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, 2013-JUNE 30, 2014.**

- 133 A. Total number of allegations received between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 that were unsubstantiated or determined to be false by June 30, 2014.
- 50 B. Total number of allegations received prior to July 1, 2013 that were unsubstantiated or determined to be false between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

#### 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 are eligible to be sent to Rome according to Canons 1717 and 1719) are appropriate for inclusion in this survey.*

- 294 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, 2013 and June 30, 2014. (Do not include clergy that are members of religious institutes as they will be reported by their religious institutes).
- 3 2. Of the total number in item 1, the number of allegations that involved only 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).

- 147 3. Victim. 3 7. Law enforcement.
- 23 4. Family member of the victim. 7 8. Bishop or official from another diocese.
- 6 5. Friend of the victim. 14 9. Other: \_\_\_\_\_.
- 94 6. Attorney.

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

- 217 10. Male.
- 71 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).

- 57 12. 0-9. 60 14. 15-17.
- 145 13. 10-14. 26 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).

- 7 16. 1954 or earlier. 52 21. 1975-1979. 7 26. 2000-2004.
- 8 17. 1955-1959. 43 22. 1980-1984. 1 27. 2005-2009.
- 24 18. 1960-1964. 23 23. 1985-1989. 7 28. 2010-2013.
- 34 19. 1965-1969. 9 24. 1990-1994. 2 29. 2014.
- 51 20. 1970-1974. 9 25. 1995-1999. 15 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.*

\_\_211\_\_ 31. Total number of priests or deacons against whom new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor have been reported between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

*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).

\_\_180\_\_ 32. Diocesan priests ordained for this diocese or eparchy.

\_\_3\_\_ 33. Diocesan priests incardinated later in this diocese or eparchy.

\_\_10\_\_ 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.

\_\_7\_\_ 36. Permanent deacons.

\_\_12\_\_ 37. Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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

\_\_138\_\_ 38. Have had one or more previous allegations reported against them prior to July 1, 2013.

\_\_157\_\_ 39. Are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing.

\_\_19\_\_ 40. Have been permanently removed or retired from ministry between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 based on allegations of abuse.

\_\_1\_\_ 41. Have been returned to ministry between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.

\_\_16\_\_ 42. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2014).

\_\_7\_\_ 43. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2014).

*Indicate the total number of alleged perpetrators identified prior to July 1, 2013 that:*

\_\_34\_\_ 44. Were permanently removed or retired from ministry between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 based on allegations of abuse.

\_\_12\_\_ 45. Were returned to ministry between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.

\_\_57\_\_ 46. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2014).

\_\_5\_\_ 47. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2014).

## COSTS

\$\_\_28,868,934\_\_ 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, 2013 and June 30, 2014 for **payments as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor** (notwithstanding the year in which the allegation was received):*

\$\_\_56,987,635\_\_ 49. All settlements paid to victims.

\$\_\_7,176,376\_\_ 50. Other payments to victims (e.g., for therapy or other expenses, if separate from settlements).

\$\_\_12,281,089\_\_ 51. Payments for support for offenders (including living expenses, legal expenses, therapy, etc.).

\$\_\_26,163,298\_\_ 52. Payments for attorneys' fees.

\$\_\_3,890,782\_\_ 53. Other allegation-related costs: \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_14\_% 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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## ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

*NOTE: Include any perpetrators who are or were ordained members of the religious clergy 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. Include **only clergy (NOT RELIGIOUS BROTHERS)** that are members of religious institutes.*

  34   31. Total number of priests or deacons against whom new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor have been reported between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

*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).*

- 26   32. Religious priests of this province assigned within the United States.  
  3   33. Religious priests of this province assigned outside of the United States.  
  2   34. Religious priests formerly of this province but no longer a member of the religious institute.  
  1   35. Religious priests not of this province but serving in this province of the religious institute.  
  1   36. Deacon members of the religious institute.  
  2   37. Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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

- 22   38. Have had one or more previous allegations reported against them prior to July 1, 2013.  
  29   39. Are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing.  
  1   40. Have been permanently removed or retired from ministry between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 based on allegations of abuse.  
  1   41. Have been returned to ministry between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.  
  2   42. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2014).  
  0   43. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2014).

*Indicate the total number of alleged perpetrators identified **prior to July 1, 2013** that:*

- 15   44. Were permanently removed or retired from ministry between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 based on allegations of abuse.  
  2   45. Were returned to ministry between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.  
  6   46. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2014).  
  0   47. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2014).

## COSTS

\$   2,798,806   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, 2013 and June 30, 2014 for **payments as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor** (notwithstanding the year in which the allegation was received):*

- \$   5,950,438   49. All settlements paid to victims.  
 \$   570,721   50. Other payments to victims (e.g., for therapy or other expenses, if separate from settlements).  
 \$   3,121,958   51. Payments for support for offenders (including living expenses, legal expenses, therapy, etc.).  
 \$   2,611,220   52. Payments for attorneys' fees.  
 \$   326,130   53. Other allegation-related costs: \_\_\_\_\_.  
  3   % 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.**

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

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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.