

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

April 1, 2008

Honorable Kelly A. Ayotte, Esq.
Attorney General
Department of Justice
33 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301-6397

Dear General Ayotte:

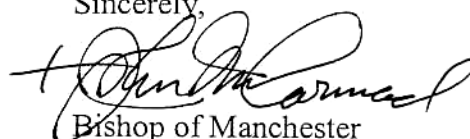
Thank you for your letter of March 28, 2008, and the copy of the January 15, 2008 Assessment Report from KPMG. The continued success of our safe environment efforts is the work of hundreds of people, including pastors, principals, directors, safe environment coordinators, and parish, school, and diocesan employees and volunteers. I was pleased that you and the auditors recognized and commended their accomplishments.

Our safe environment policies and programs are the result of ongoing collaboration with professionals, lay men and women, priests, deacons, and religious. I believe that their effectiveness will be sustained through our continued work to improve these policies and programs. For this reason, we seek guidance, suggestions, and resources from professionals and child safety organizations, such as the Office for Child and Youth Protection of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The observations and recommendations made by KPMG in the January 2008 report will be helpful to us as we consult with our Safe Environment Council and Diocesan Review Board regarding enhancements to our safe environment programs, practices, and policies.

In accordance with your request, within the next several weeks, the Office for Ministerial Conduct will provide your office with a more detailed response to your letter. In the meantime, I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to you for your work and commitment to protect children and youth in our state. During the month of April 2008, Child Abuse Prevention Month, our diocesan website is featuring a number of safety resources for parents, children, and teens, including a link to the New Hampshire Attorney General's *Internet Safety Brochure for Parents and Teens*, which we find to be a helpful resource.

With prayers for our common goal to ensure a safe community for all people, I remain

Sincerely,


Bishop of Manchester