

2006 Annual Report

Findings and Recommendations

MARCH 2007

Report on the
Implementation of the

Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

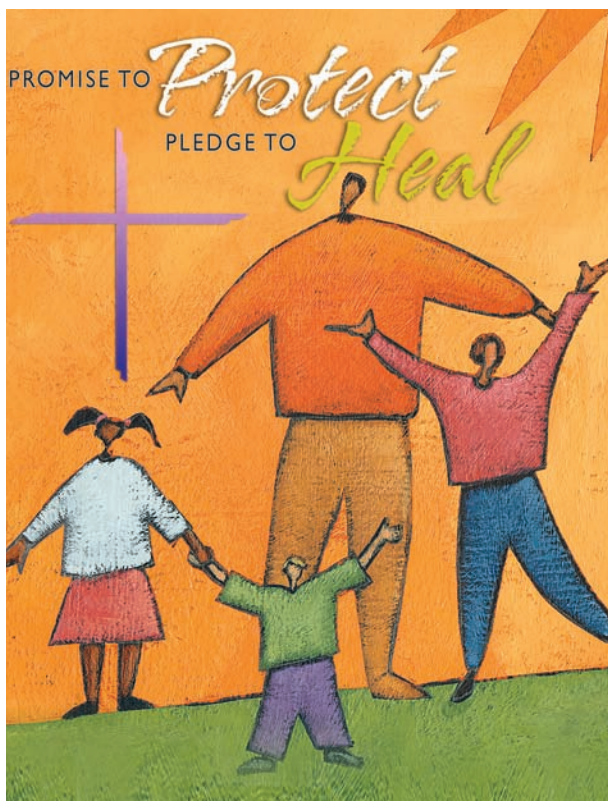
OFFICE OF CHILD AND
YOUTH PROTECTION

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NATIONAL REVIEW
BOARD

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UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS



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United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, D.C.

The 2006 *Annual Report on the Implementation of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People"* was prepared by the Office of Child and Youth Protection for the National Review Board and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). It was reviewed by the USCCB President, Bishop William S. Skylstad, and has been authorized for publication by the undersigned.

Msgr. David J. Malloy, STD
General Secretary
USCCB

The findings and recommendations in this 2006 *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, April 2007

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Preface

Most Reverend William S. Skylstad
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The 2006 audit marked a time of transitions both large and small. The audit timeline moved closer to a standard twelve-month period. The audits also aimed to help dioceses achieve full compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. The specific results of the audits are enumerated in this report.

However, more important than these administrative accomplishments is the continued progress bishops have made in realizing their promises. These include especially the promise to reach out to victims/survivors of clergy sexual abuse, so many of whom are still hurting, and the promise to create a safe environment for children. The results of the compliance audits show that the bishops continue to build on past efforts as they move forward. Such efforts, however, are and must remain ongoing. Vigilance to ensure the safety of children is now a way of life.

When I speak to fellow bishops and other members of the Church, I often stress that the commitment to the protection of children belongs to us all. When one member of Christ's faithful suffers, all of us are affected. We learned this again five years ago when the crisis of the sexual abuse of minors by clerics exploded. All of us were touched by the tragedy. The Church of Christ that we experience in our parish or diocese extends far beyond those boundaries. So, too, the tragic events that occur in one part of the Church impact the Church as a whole. Because of this we realize the importance of being accountable to and for one another. We must work together as one to promote the protection of our children and young people.

Of course, the fundamental motivation for addressing sexual abuse of minors by clerics and practicing accountability for one another is that we have dedicated ourselves to doing what is just and right. With regard to the protection of children, this translates into a clear and compelling two-fold mandate: to keep children safe in our Church, and to heal the past wounds of those we failed to protect.

The Church pays an immeasurable price for failures to protect children. Christ's faithful are led into doubt; confidence in the bishops as shepherds of the Church is weakened; and, most sadly, in some instances, faith itself is undermined by scandal. Our failures have also caused those many priests who live holy and faithful lives to now live under a cloud of suspicion. Now we strive to

restore trust in the Church and the joy of faith to those who have suffered their loss. Candor and transparency must characterize our actions so that our true dedication, our deep commitment, to the protection of all of our children and young people will be apparent to all.

“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me,” Jesus says to his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew (25:40). May our Lord’s words compel us to act when someone reaches out for protection, healing, and reconciliation. In the last five years we have made enormous progress, yet we must continue to proceed steadfastly.

In the exercise of the sacred ministry entrusted to us, we bishops take comfort in the fact that we do not travel alone. We are assisted in keeping our promise to protect and our pledge to heal by the many people who bring the *Charter* alive in their (arch)dioceses/eparchies. Their constant efforts on behalf of the protection of children are realized through work on the audits. Yet their efforts remain largely unknown to people in the pew and the wider public. But let there be no doubt that their efforts make an enormous difference in the lives of all the faithful. For all who work tirelessly on audits, on making sure that we maintain the highest possible standards in preventing abuse and make amends when it occurs, I thank you sincerely.



National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People

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March 30, 2007

Most Reverend William S. Skylstad, President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Your Excellency,

As specified by Article 10 of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, the National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People (NRB), appointed by the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), has reviewed the 2006 Annual Report on the Implementation of the *Charter* (Annual Report) prepared by the Office of Child and Youth Protection (OCYP) and recommends its publication. This Annual Report reflects the progress made in implementing and maintaining the standards of the *Charter* and is based on an annual audit process.

On the recommendation of the NRB and with the approval of the USCCB, the OCYP modified the 2006 audit process and focused on those dioceses/eparchies found to be non-compliant in 2005 and those who requested a full on-site audit. The NRB also recommended changes in the audit process in an effort to standardize the audit period. The USCCB's Administrative Committee approved these recommendations in March 2006. They will be implemented in 2007 when all dioceses/eparchies are expected to participate in the full, on-site audits.

After conducting a competitive selection process for the 2007-2009 auditors, the NRB recommended that the contract be awarded to The Gavin Group, Inc. of Winthrop, Massachusetts. The year of 2006 also represented a transition year in the audit process that allowed the NRB to refine the audit process for 2007, to learn more about effectiveness measures, and to review the inclusion of parishes in the audit process.

In 2006, eleven full and eighteen focused audits were conducted. The results of the 2006 audits indicated that 147 victims/survivors came forth and made allegations of sexual abuse by clergy. Of these, 128 were adults and 19 were minors. This figure indicates that dioceses/eparchies must maintain their vigilance in training, evaluating backgrounds, and verification of compliance data provided by parishes and schools. The NRB is working with the Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People to develop a methodology that includes parishes in the annual audit process.

The overall results of the 2006 audit are encouraging. The auditors judged that the eleven dioceses/eparchies who requested full on-site audits in 2006 were judged to be in compliance with all

audited articles of the *Charter*. Eighteen of the twenty-two dioceses/eparchies who were required to participate in a focused audit in 2006 due to non-compliance in 2005 became compliant by December 31, 2006.

There is still some discouraging news, however, with regard to audit participation. Four dioceses/eparchies that were to participate in the 2006 audit did not. Two of these four dioceses/eparchies, the Diocese of Lincoln and the Eparchy of Newton for Melkite Catholics, had refused to participate in the 2005 audits as well. Two dioceses/eparchies, the Diocese of Baker and the Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark for Syriacs, were found to be non-compliant in the 2005 audit and, thus, were required to participate in the 2006 audit. Both refused. It is most unfortunate that the bishops and eparchs of these dioceses/eparchies are unwilling to participate in the one measure of public scrutiny that assures the Catholic lay faithful that the Church is taking every means possible to reach out to those who have been harmed by individuals in the service of the Church and to promote the safety and well being of the children entrusted to its care.

The NRB is committed to the work set out for it in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and will continue to be a strong advocate for children and victims. The members of the Board are committed to helping the Church by overseeing the Causes and Context Study, by providing counsel to the Body of Bishops encouraging them to do all that can be done to protect children, heal the wounds caused by members of the Church, and establish permanent policies and procedures that lay a foundation for a future in which all within and outside the Church can have confidence.

Sincerely,



Dr. Patricia O'Donnell Ewers
Chair



Office of Child and Youth Protection

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

Teresa M. Kettelkamp
Executive Director

Sheila A. Kelly
Deputy Director

March 30, 2007

Most Reverend William S. Skylstad, President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dr. Patricia O'Donnell Ewers, Chair
National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People

Your Excellency and Chair Ewers,

This Annual Report is the fourth report since the bishops voted for the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* in Dallas in 2002. Unlike in past years when all the dioceses/eparchies were audited in some fashion, in 2006 the only dioceses/eparchies that were audited were those which volunteered for a full audit, those dioceses/eparchies which refused to be audited in the past, and those dioceses/eparchies which were found to be non-compliant during the 2005 audit. As a result, eleven full audits were conducted. Three of these had required actions and all three were remedied. Also, eighteen focused audits were conducted, six of which had required actions. Of those six, four were remedied and two remain non-compliant.

I spoke recently regarding the findings from past audit years. These findings contained both good news regarding the Church's accomplishments, and findings that reflected the need for continued vigilance in keeping the Charter alive and in progress. Afterwards, a few members of the audience came up to me and said, in a very nice way, that I sounded like a cheerleader for the bishops. That comment caused me to review my presentation.

After I did so, it seemed to me the talk was quite balanced in the material which it presented. However, as we all know, it's often not what one says that counts but what the listener hears. As I pondered, I began to see the matter in another light. And this is what I have concluded.

There is a surrounding atmosphere that one might describe as the **Refusal to See the Evidence**. It takes two forms.

- Those who see the bishops in a negative light refuse to acknowledge the positive steps they have taken to address the problem of child sexual abuse and **refuse to see the evidence that demonstrates the accomplishments which have been made**.

- Those who either did not see this problem as their problem (since many of the victims were from years past), are tired of hearing of the failings of the Church, or think the approval of the *Charter* in 2002 and 2005 along with the audits solved everything **refuse to see evidence of what still needs to be done.**

The reality is that the Church has done a lot, and the audits have solidly proven that the structures of the Charter are working. But, as I have said in the past, this does not mean the job is done. Victims continue to come forward and a welcoming hand needs to reach out to them. Children still need our protection, and safe environments must be maintained for them.

We must never forget why we are doing all that we are doing. We do it for the children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teresa M. Kettelkamp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Teresa M. Kettelkamp
Executive Director



March 30, 2007

Most Reverend William S. Skylstad, President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dr. Patricia Ewers, Chair
National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People

Your Excellency and Chair,

The Gavin Group, Inc. was again selected by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Office of Child and Youth Protection and the National Review Board to conduct the audits of the dioceses and eparchies to determine their level of compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. A total of 11 full audits and 18 focused audits were conducted. The majority of the full audits were requested by the dioceses and eparchies, and focused audits conducted in dioceses and eparchies were based on the fact that unresolved Required Actions were issued during a prior audit period.

The audit documents for the 2006 audits were revised from those utilized in other audit periods due to the fact that this was the first compliance audit of the revised June 2005 *Charter*. The audit documents were designed to maximize the focus of the audits on issues which were problematic in prior audit periods, to simplify the process for those involved in the implementation of the audits, and to create a new audit period which was more responsive to diocesan and eparchial operations. Again during the 2006 audits, no personnel files were reviewed and the auditors had to rely on the truthfulness and integrity of those furnishing the information to reach conclusions and provide statistical data.

Changes to the process were reviewed with the auditors prior to the implementation of any audit to ensure continuity of the audit mission, consistency of findings based on similar facts and the necessity of producing documents with accurate information based on the completeness and accuracy of the information furnished by the dioceses and eparchies.

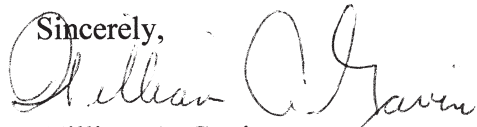
Because of the limited scope of the 2006 audits in terms of numbers of dioceses and eparchies to be audited, no workshops were conducted; however they will be reinstated for the 2007 audit period.

Based on the limited audits conducted, far reaching statistical accomplishments and conclusions are not being offered for the 2006 audit period. It can be stated however, that the dedication of the bishops and eparchs toward strict compliance with the *Charter*

is most encouraging and has been demonstrated through innovative initiatives such as self audit of their parishes for compliance with the *Charter*.

I wish to express the appreciation of The Gavin Group to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Office of Child and Youth Protection, the National Review Board and in particular, to the bishops and eparchs of the United States for all of the outstanding and often difficult work they have done to ensure the safety of our children.

Accomplishments have been many and impressive, and demonstrate the willingness of the bishops and eparchs to do all possible to bring peace and closure to the suffering of past victims and to prevent any further incidents of abuse.

Sincerely,

William A. Gavin
President



Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY • <http://cara.georgetown.edu>

2300 WISCONSIN AVENUE, NW • SUITE 400 • WASHINGTON, DC 20007

March 30, 2007

Most Reverend William S. Skylstad, President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dr. Patricia O'Donnell Ewers, Chair
National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People

Dear Bishop Skylstad and Dr. Ewers,

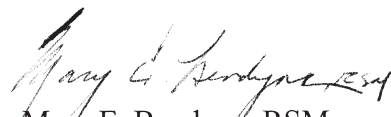
In November 2004, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to design and conduct an annual survey of all dioceses and eparchies whose bishops and eparchs are members of the USCCB. The purpose of this 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 *2006 Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs* was designed by CARA in consultation with the Office of Child and Youth Protection and was only slightly different from the versions used for the *2004 and 2005 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 or provinces.

Data collection for 2006 took place between December 2006 and February 2007. As of February 19, 2007, CARA received responses from 193 of the 195 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB and 150 of the 220 clerical and mixed religious institutes of CMSM, for response rates of 99 percent and 68 percent, respectively. CARA then prepared the national level summary tables and graphs of the findings for 2006, with comparisons to 2004 and 2005, which are presented in this *Annual Report*.

We are grateful for the cooperation of the bishops, eparchs, major superiors, and their representatives in completing the survey for 2006.

Sincerely,



Mary E. Bendyna, RSM
Executive Director

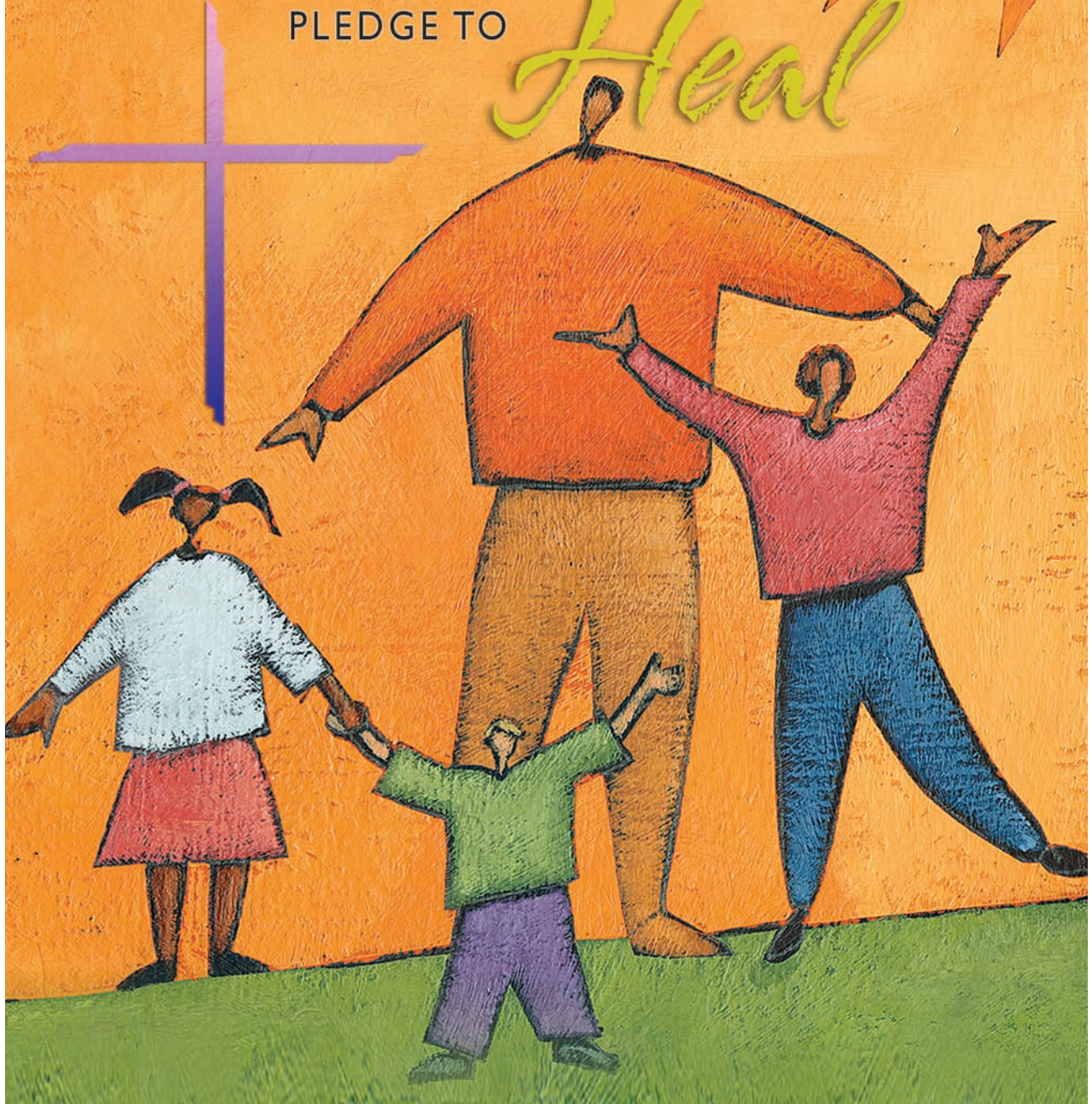
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Section I

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* stipulates that the Office of Child and Youth Protection will produce an annual report noting progress in implementing this Charter. The *Charter* further stipulates that this public report will be based on an annual audit, and that it will include the names of those dioceses/eparchies that are not compliant with the provisions and expectations set forth in the *Charter*. Following are summary findings of the 2006 compliance audits.

Changes to the timeframe for the audit process and the compliance criteria for *Charter* Article 12 (training and education) were approved by the Administrative Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in March 2006. The year 2006 served as a transition year in the compliance audit process, in that the scope of the compliance audits focused on the dioceses/eparchies that were found to be non-compliant at the end of the 2005 compliance audit period, December 31, 2005. The goal of the 2006 audit process was to promote compliance for the dioceses/eparchies that were not compliant with the provisions of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* at the end of the 2005 audit period.

Twenty-two dioceses and eparchies were found to be out of compliance on December 31, 2005. Twenty-one were non-compliant with Article 12; five were not compliant with Article 13. Four of those five were not in compliance with both Articles 12 and 13. One eparchy was also non-compliant with Articles 1, 2, and 7. Additionally, one diocese and one eparchy refused to participate in the 2005 compliance audit and therefore were included in those to be audited in 2006.

The scope of the 2006 audits focused on the 22 dioceses/eparchies that were non-compliant on December 31, 2005, and on the two that refused to participate in the 2005 audit. For the 22 who were audited in 2005, the 2006 audit concentrated on the specific area of non-compliance. For example, if a diocese was found non-compliant in 2005 because the children for whom training is required had not been trained, then the auditors examined this specific area of non-compliance in 2006.

In addition, eleven dioceses received full on-site audits in 2006 at the request of their bishops.

In 2007, there will be a full on-site audit for all dioceses/eparchies whose bishops/eparchs are members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

CHAPTER TWO

Findings

FULL ON-SITE AUDITS

Eleven (arch)bishops requested full on-site audits in 2006. The (arch)dioceses audited included Amarillo; Boston; Cheyenne; Chicago; Cleveland; Covington; Green Bay; Portland, ME; Rockville Centre; Syracuse; and Wilmington.

Following the on-site visit, eight of the audited dioceses were found to be compliant with the provisions of the *Charter*. Three of the audited dioceses (Amarillo, Boston, and Covington) received required actions. All remediations were completed by December 31, 2006.

As they had in 2005, the Diocese of Lincoln and the Eparchy of Newton for Melkite Catholics refused to participate in the 2006 compliance audit process.

Data on new allegations were collected only from the eleven full audits. Since this group of audited dioceses is small, it is not possible to report with accuracy on the number of allegations reported nationwide during the 2006 audit process. However, in these full audits, a total of 147 victims/survivors came forward: 128 adults and 19 minors. Of the 19 minors, 17 were reported in one diocese, and one each in two other dioceses.

FOCUSED ON-SITE AUDITS

Eighteen dioceses/eparchies received focused audits. A number of dioceses/eparchies were audited on more than one Article. The following are the results of the focused audits according to the Articles that were audited.

- Article 1: One eparchy was audited on Article 1 and found to be compliant.
- Article 2: One eparchy was audited on Article 2 and found to be compliant.

- Article 7: One eparchy was audited on Article 7 and found to be compliant.
- Article 12: Seventeen dioceses/eparchies were audited on Article 12, and fifteen were found to be compliant. Two dioceses were not fully compliant with the requirements of Article 12. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the Diocese of Burlington were found to be non-compliant due to the need to complete the training of volunteers.

Based on the information provided to the auditors by the other fifteen dioceses/eparchies, the training requirements of Article 12 have been completed. This includes the education and training of children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, volunteers, and others.

- Article 13: Four dioceses/eparchies were audited on Article 13, and all four were found to be compliant.
- The Diocese of Baker and the Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark for Syriacs refused to participate in the focused audit process, which was required by their failure to comply with the *Charter* requirements of Article 12 in the 2005 audit.

CONCLUSION

Based on the information provided to the Gavin Group, Inc., during the 2006 audits, compliance with the requirements of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* for those dioceses/eparchies that were audited has been achieved. Ninety-eight percent of the volunteers for whom training is required have been trained.

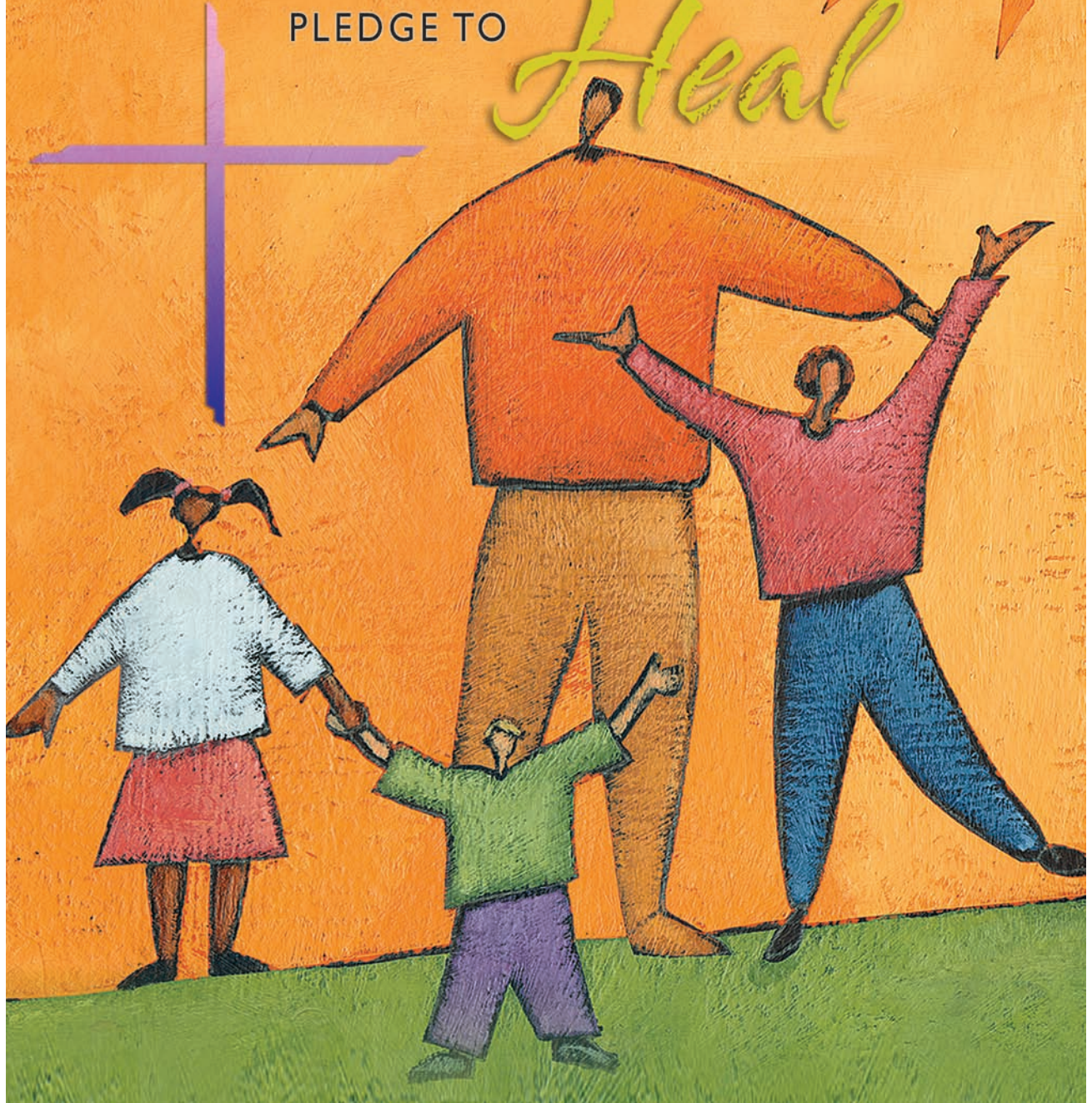
Maintaining compliance in the coming years remains the challenge of the bishops/eparchs in the United States. Vigilance is needed to overcome the natural regressive tendency to become complacent.

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Section II

CHAPTER THREE

2006 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs: A Summary Report

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
Georgetown University, Washington, DC

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 annually 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."*

The questionnaire for the 2006 *Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs* was designed by CARA in consultation with the Office of Child and Youth Protection and was only slightly different from the versions used in 2004 and 2005. 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 December 1 packet mailing and were asked to provide the name of a contact person who would complete the survey. In collaboration with the

Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), major superiors of clerical and mixed religious institutes were also invited to complete a similar survey for their congregations or provinces.

CARA completed data collection for the 2006 annual survey on February 19, 2007. A total of 193 of the 195 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB completed the survey, for a response rate of 99 percent. A total of 150 of the 220 clerical and mixed religious institutes that belong to CMSM responded to the survey, for a response rate of 68 percent. The overall response rate for dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes was 83 percent. CARA then prepared the national level summary tables and graphs of the findings for 2006, with tables comparing allegations and costs from 2004-2006, which are presented in this report.

DIOCESES AND EPARCHIES

The Data Collection Process

Dioceses and eparchies began submitting their data for the 2006 survey in mid-December 2006. CARA telephoned every diocese or eparchy that had not sent in a contact name by January 2007 to obtain the name of a contact person to complete the survey. CARA sent several e-mail and fax reminders to encourage a high response rate. Bishop Gregory Aymond, chair of the USCCB Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People also sent a letter to non-responding

bishops in mid-February, reminding them that the body of bishops had agreed to this survey and encouraging them to respond.

By February 19, 2007, a total of 193 of the 195 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB had responded to the survey, for a response rate of 99 percent. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis did not respond and the Diocese of Lincoln refused to participate. This response is greater than the 94 percent that participated in the 2005 survey (184 of the 195 possible) and the 93 percent that participated in the 2004 survey (181 of the 195).

A copy of the survey instrument used by dioceses and eparchies is included in this report at Appendix I.

Credible Allegations Received by Dioceses and Eparchies in 2006

The responding dioceses and eparchies reported that between January 1 and December 31, 2006, they received 635 new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a diocesan or eparchial priest or deacon. These allegations were made by 632 individuals against 394 priests or deacons. As Table 1 shows, each of these numbers represents a decline from the numbers reported in the previous two years, even though a

slightly larger number of dioceses and eparchies responded to the 2006 survey than to the 2004 or 2005 surveys.

Compared to 2005, new reports of allegations declined by 9 percent (from 695 new credible allegations in 2005 to 635 new credible allegations in 2006). The number of alleged offenders declined by 15 percent, from 463 alleged offenders reported in 2005 to 394 alleged offenders reported in 2006.

Of the 635 new allegations reported in 2006, a total of 14 allegations (2 percent), involved children under the age of 18 in 2006. The remaining 621 allegations were made by adults who are alleging abuse as minors in previous years. By comparison, nine allegations in 2005 (1 percent of all new allegations received in 2005) and 22 allegations in 2004 (2 percent of new allegations received in 2004) involved children under the age of 18 in each of those years.

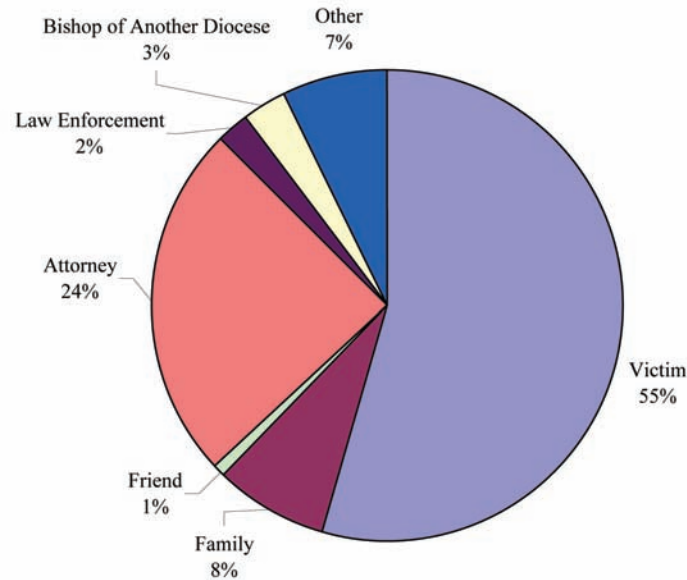
Figure 1 illustrates the way in which allegations were reported to the dioceses or eparchies in 2006. More than half of all new allegations (55 percent) were reported by the victim and almost a quarter (24 percent) were allegations reported by an attorney.

TABLE I. New Credible Allegations Reported by Dioceses and Eparchies.

	2004	2005	2006	Change (+/-) 2005-2006	Percentage Change
Victims	889	690	632	-58	-8%
Allegations	898	695	635	-60	-9%
Offenders	622	463	394	-69	-15%

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004-2006

FIGURE 1. Method of Reporting Allegations of Abuse: Dioceses and Eparchies.

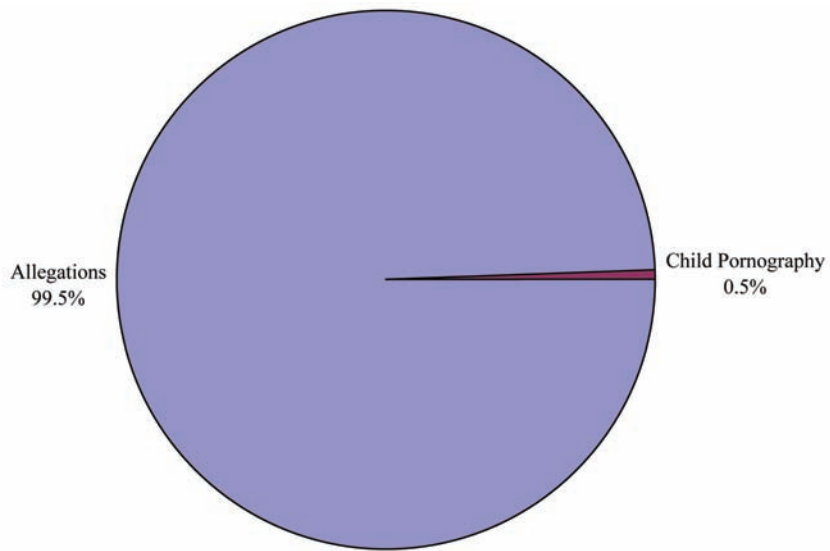


Source: 2006 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Compared to 2005, there are few differences in who reported the allegations:

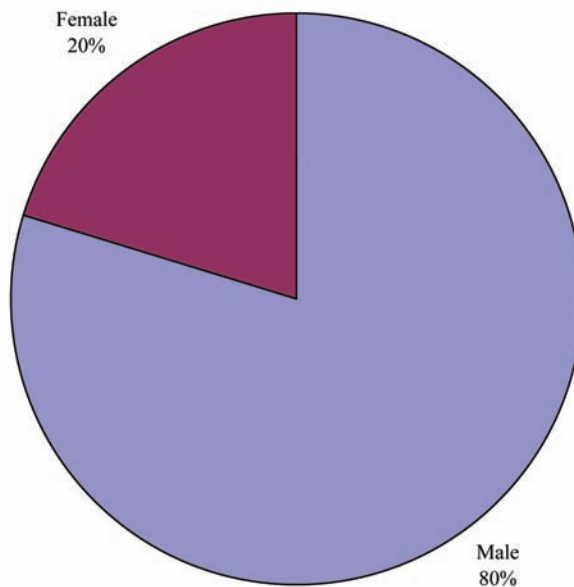
- The percentages of victim-reported allegations are identical in 2005 and 2006.
- Family members reported 8 percent of allegations in 2006, compared to 7 percent in 2005.
- Fewer allegations were reported by attorneys in 2006 than in 2005 (24 percent, compared to 30 percent in 2005).
- Law enforcement reported 1 percent of allegations in 2005 and 2 percent in 2006.
- A friend of the victim reported 1 percent of allegations in 2005, just as in 2006.
- A bishop of another diocese reported 2 percent of allegations in 2005 and 3 percent of allegations in 2006.
- Allegations reported by someone other than the victim, an attorney, a family member, a friend, law enforcement, or a bishop from another diocese were 4 percent of allegations in 2005, compared to 7 percent in 2006. Some of these other persons reporting allegations included other priests, therapists, the priest perpetrator, a parole officer, or the neighbor of a victim.

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



Source: 2006 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 3. Gender of Abuse Victim: Dioceses and Eparchies.



Source: 2006 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 635 total allegations, only three cases, less than 1 percent, involved only child pornography.

Compared to 2005, dioceses and eparchies reported fewer new credible allegations that involve only child pornography in 2006. In 2005, dioceses and eparchies reported five cases (out of 695 new allegations, less than 1 percent) that involved only child pornography.

Victims, Offenses, and Offenders in 2006

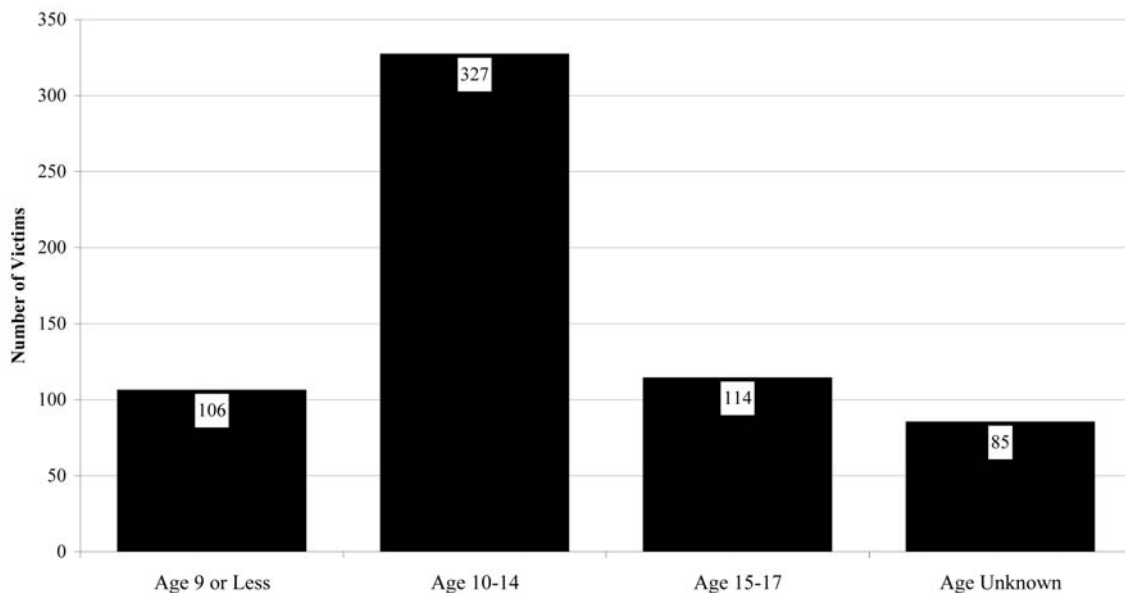
Of the 632 alleged victims reported in 2006, some 80 percent (505 victims) were male and 20 percent (128

victims) were female. This proportion is illustrated in Figure 3.

The proportion of male and female victims is nearly identical to that reported in 2005 (81 percent males and 19 percent females).

A little more than half of the victims (52 percent) were between the ages of 10 and 14 when the alleged abuse began. About one in five (18 percent) was between the ages of 15 and 17 when the alleged abuse began, and 17 percent were younger than age 10. Less than one in seven (13 percent) could not be identified by age. 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: 2006 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 5 shows the years in which the abuses reported in 2006 are alleged to have occurred or begun. For most of the new allegations (71 percent), the abuse occurred or began between 1960 and 1984. In 2006, dioceses and eparchies reported that 1965-1969 was the most common time period for the alleged occurrences, while in both 2005 and 2004, 1970-1974 was the most common time period reported. In all three reporting years, however, nearly one in five newly reported allegations (17 percent) were said to have occurred or begun in those years. For 6 percent of new allegations reported in 2006, no time frame for the alleged abuse could be determined by the allegation.

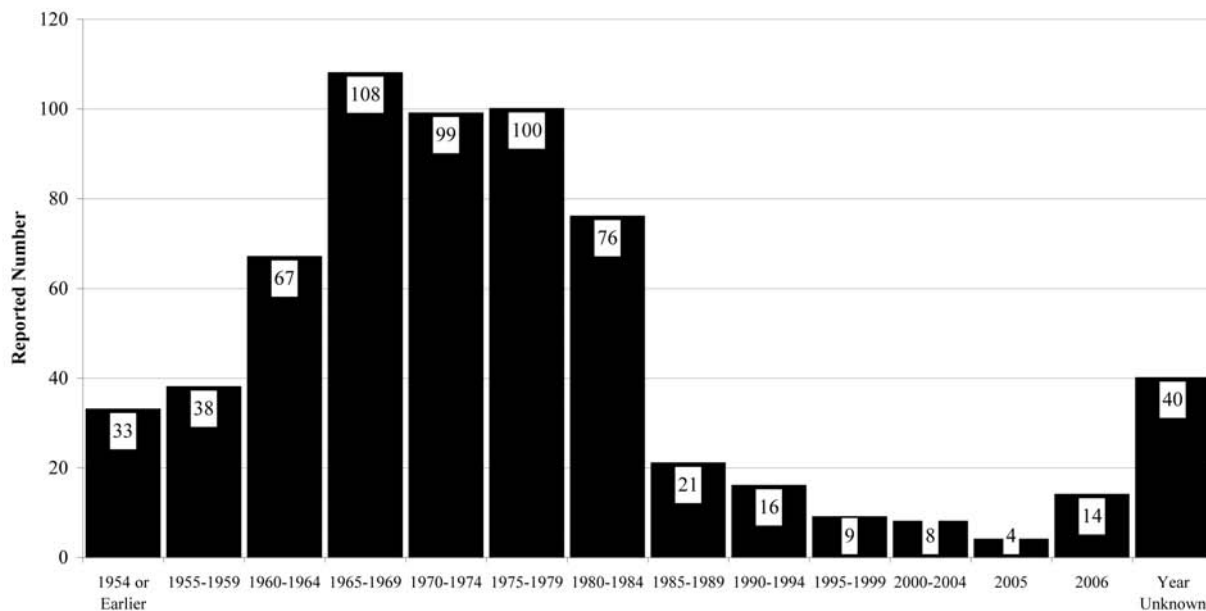
Of the 394 diocesan or eparchial priests or deacons that were identified in new allegations in 2006, most (83 percent) had been ordained for the diocese or eparchy in which the abuse was alleged to have occurred. Seven percent were incardinated into that diocese or eparchy from another diocese or eparchy, and 6 percent were extern priests, serving the diocese

in a temporary capacity. Six new allegations (2 percent) reported in 2006 involved a permanent deacon. Figure 6 displays the ecclesial status of offenders at the time of the alleged offense.

Nearly six in ten (226) of the 394 priests and deacons identified as alleged offenders in 2006 had already been identified in prior allegations. In 2005, 66 percent of the alleged offenders had been identified in previous allegations. Figure 7 depicts the percentage with prior allegations in 2006.

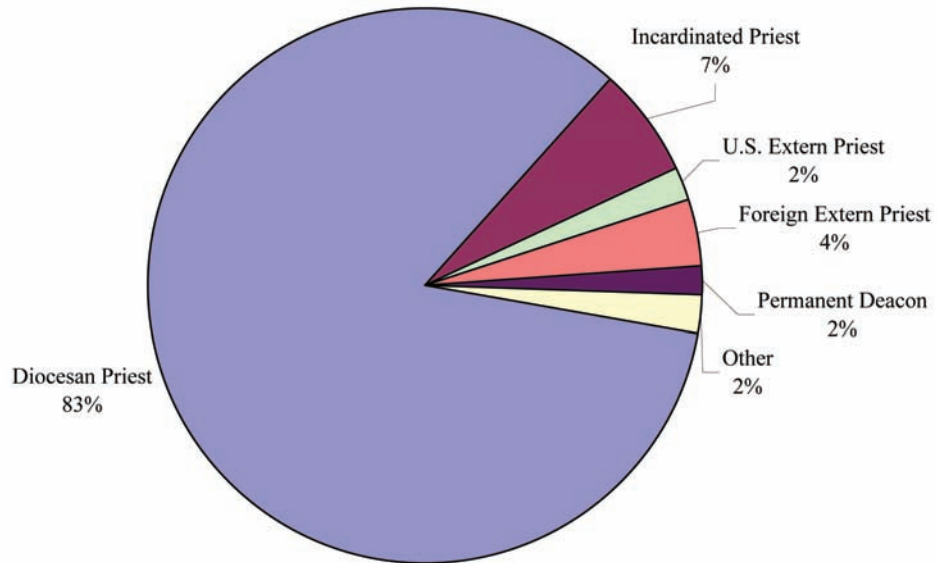
Seven in ten alleged offenders (71 percent) identified in 2006 are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing. Another 7 percent (27 priests or deacons) were permanently removed from ministry in 2006. In addition to the 27 offenders identified in 2006 and permanently removed from ministry in 2006, another 65 priests or deacons who had been identified in allegations of abuse *before* 2006 were permanently removed from ministry in 2006.

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



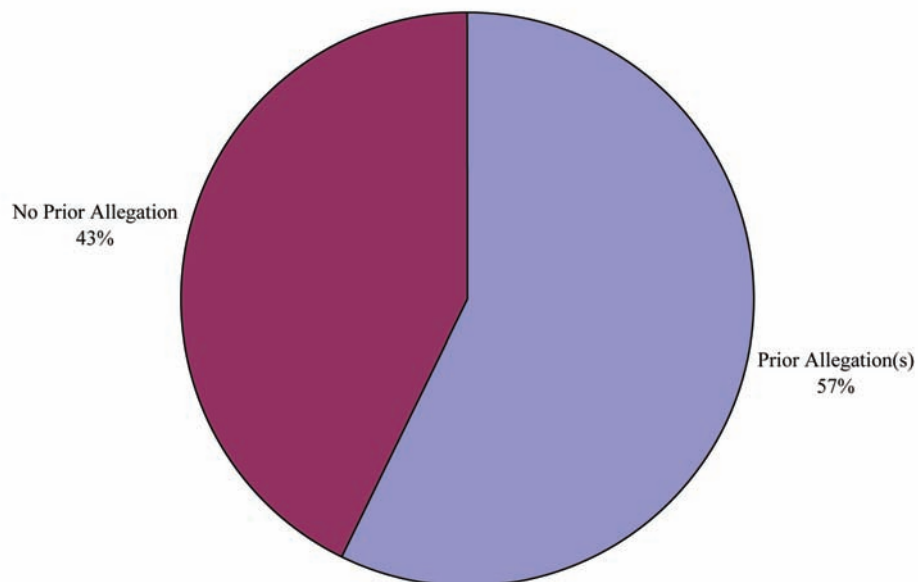
Source: 2006 Survey of Allegations and Costs

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



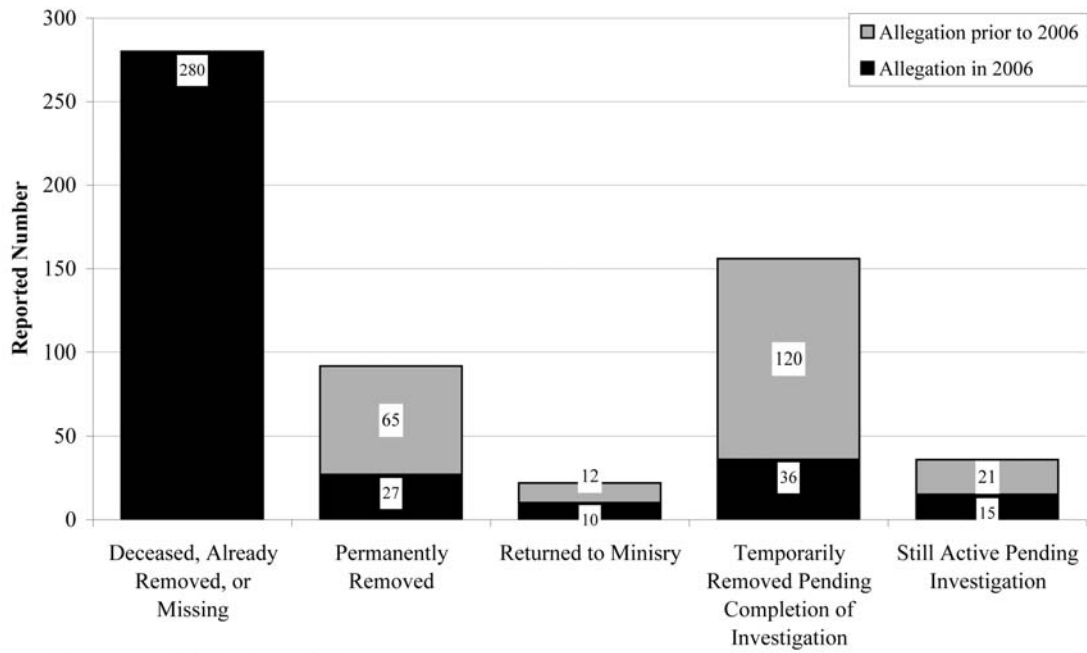
Source: 2006 Survey of Allegations and Costs

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



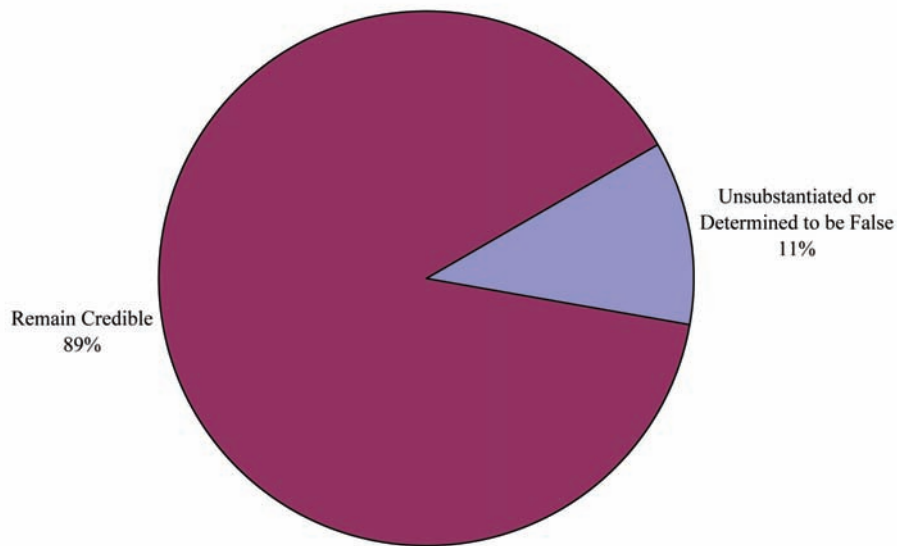
Source: 2006 Survey of Allegations and Costs

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



Source: 2006 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 9. New Allegations Unsubstantiated or Determined to Be False in 2006: Dioceses and Eparchies.



Source: 2006 Survey of Allegations and Costs

A total of 22 priests or deacons were returned to ministry in 2006 based on the resolution of an allegation made during or prior to 2006 (10 who were identified in 2006 and 12 who were identified before 2006). In addition, 156 priests or deacons (36 who were identified in 2006 and 120 who were identified before 2006) have been temporarily removed from ministry pending completion of an investigation. Notwithstanding the year in which the abuse was reported, 36 diocesan and eparchial clergy remain in active ministry pending a preliminary investigation of an allegation (15 who were identified in 2006 and 21 who were identified prior to 2006). Figure 8 shows the current status of alleged offenders.

Of the 635 new credible allegations reported in 2006, about one in ten (71 new allegations) was unsubstantiated or determined to be false by December 31, 2006. In addition, 46 allegations received prior to 2006 were unsubstantiated or determined to be false during 2006. Figure 9 presents the percentage of all new credible allegations received in 2006 that were unsubstantiated or determined to be false in 2006.

Costs to Dioceses and Eparchies in 2006

Dioceses and eparchies that responded to the survey and reported costs related to allegations paid out \$332,970,559 in 2006. This includes payments in 2006

for allegations reported in previous years. Twenty responding dioceses and eparchies reported no expenditures in 2006 related to allegations of sexual abuse of a minor. Another ten responding dioceses declined to report expenditures in 2006 related to allegations of sexual abuse of a minor. Table 3 compares payments by dioceses and eparchies from 2004 through 2006 across several categories of allegation-related expenses. The total cost reported by dioceses and eparchies in 2006 is \$112.7 million less than that reported in 2005.

Most of the payments by dioceses and eparchies in 2006 (66 percent) were for settlements to victims. Attorneys' fees contributed an additional 21 percent of the total cost (\$69,780,366).¹ Support for offenders (including therapy, living expenses, legal expenses, etc.) amounted to another 9 percent of allegation-related costs (\$30,362,609).² An additional 3 percent of the total cost was for payments for therapy for victims (if not included in the settlement).

Among the "other" costs reported by dioceses and eparchies (\$2,996,581) are payments for items such as investigations of allegations, living costs for victims or survivors, costs for mediation, other payments related to settlements, travel expenses for victims, costs for victims' assistance offices and victim hotlines, clergy misconduct review boards, canonical trials and case processing, and USCCB compliance audit costs.

TABLE 2. Costs Related to Allegations by Dioceses and Eparchies.

	2004	2005	2006	Change (+/-) 2005-2006
Settlements	\$93,364,172	\$386,010,171	\$220,099,188	-\$165,910,983
Therapy for Victims	\$6,613,283	\$7,648,226	\$9,731,815	+\$2,083,589
Support for Offenders	\$1,413,093	\$11,831,028	\$30,362,609	+\$18,531,581
Attorneys' Fees	\$32,706,598	\$36,467,516	\$69,780,366	+\$33,312,850
Other Costs	\$5,485,011	\$3,729,607	\$2,996,581	-\$733,026
GRAND TOTAL	\$139,582,157	\$445,686,548	\$332,970,559	-\$112,715,989

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004-2006

1 Attorneys' fees include all costs for attorneys paid by dioceses and eparchies in 2006 as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor.

2 This cost is substantially higher in 2005 and 2006 than that reported in 2004, largely due to a change in question wording. In 2005, the question was changed from "Payments for therapy for offenders" to "Payments for support for offenders (including living expenses, legal expenses, therapy, etc.)" to more accurately capture the full costs to dioceses and eparchies for support of alleged offenders.

Figure 10 displays the costs paid by dioceses and eparchies for settlements and for attorneys' fees from 2004 through 2006.

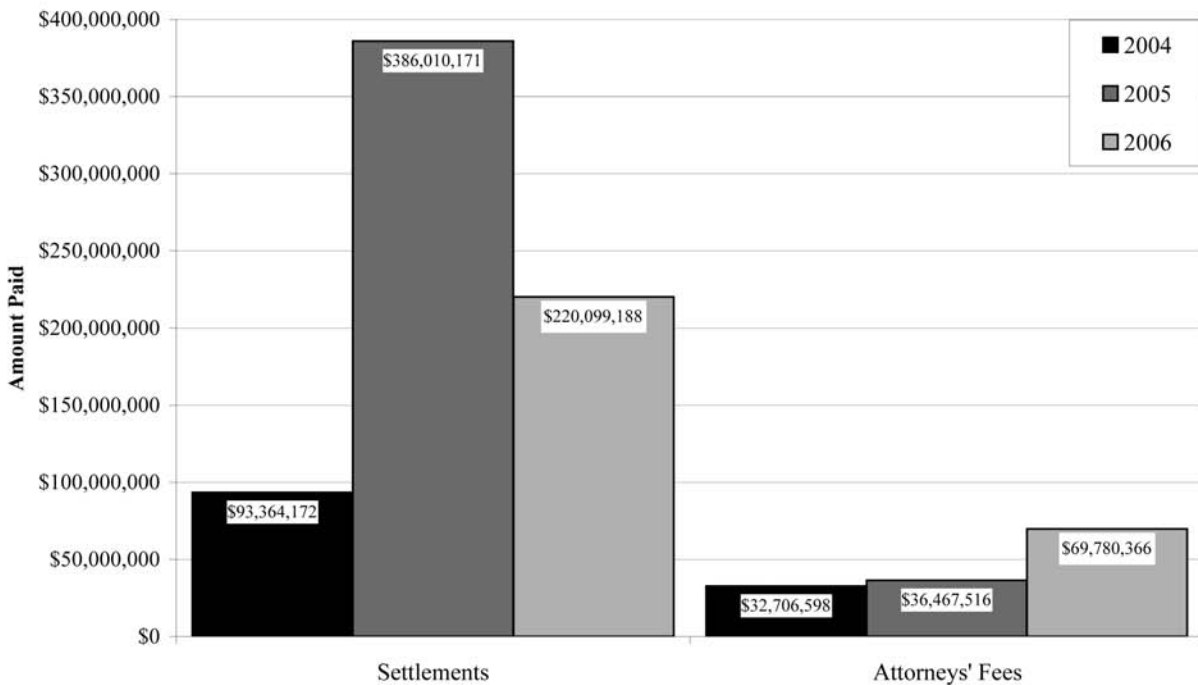
Compared to 2005, amounts paid for settlements in 2006 decreased by 43 percent. By contrast, the amount paid for support for offenders (not shown in the figure) was 1.5 times more than in 2005 and the amount paid in attorneys' fees nearly doubled.

Figure 11 illustrates the total allegation-related costs paid by dioceses and eparchies and the approximate proportion of that cost that was covered by diocesan insurance. Just over a quarter (27 percent) of the total

allegation-related costs paid by dioceses and eparchies in 2006 was covered by diocesan insurance. By comparison, insurance paid for nearly half (49 percent) of the total allegation-related costs paid by dioceses and eparchies in 2005 and 32 percent in 2004.

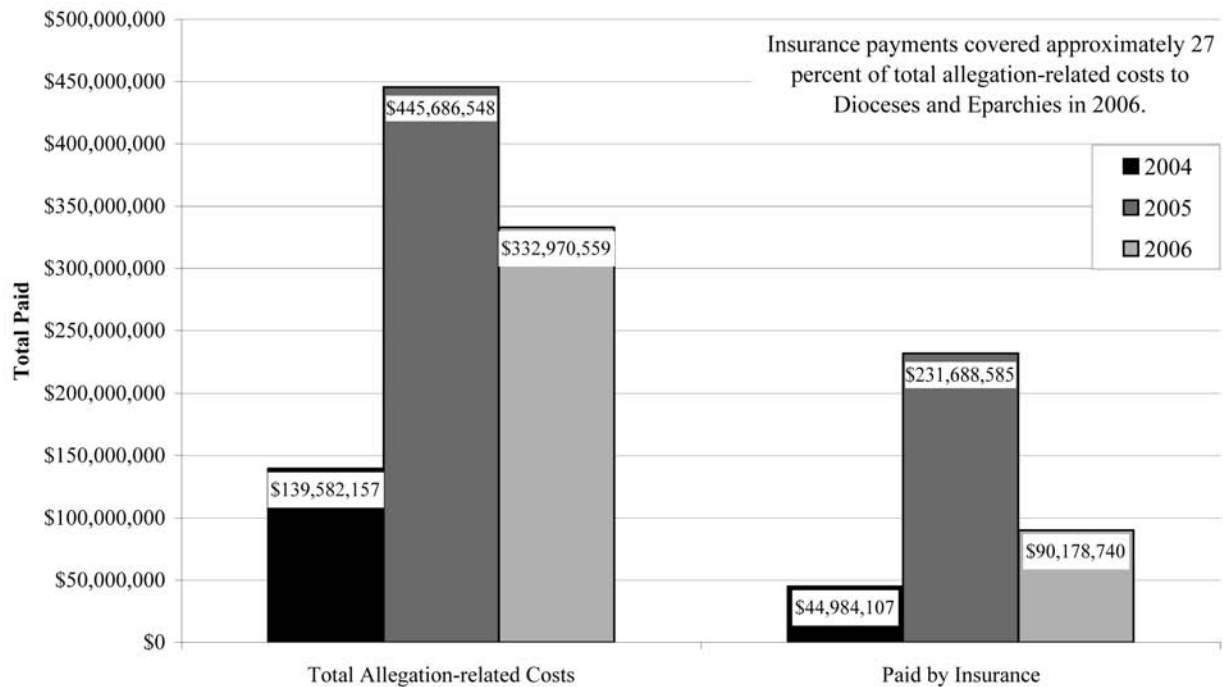
Figure 12 about here In addition to allegation-related expenditures, at least \$25,573,162 was spent by dioceses and eparchies for child protection efforts, such as safe environment coordinators, training programs, and background checks. Figure 12 compares the allegation-related costs to child protection expenditures paid by dioceses and eparchies from 2004 through 2006.

Figure 10. Payments for Settlements and Attorneys' Fees: Dioceses and Eparchies.



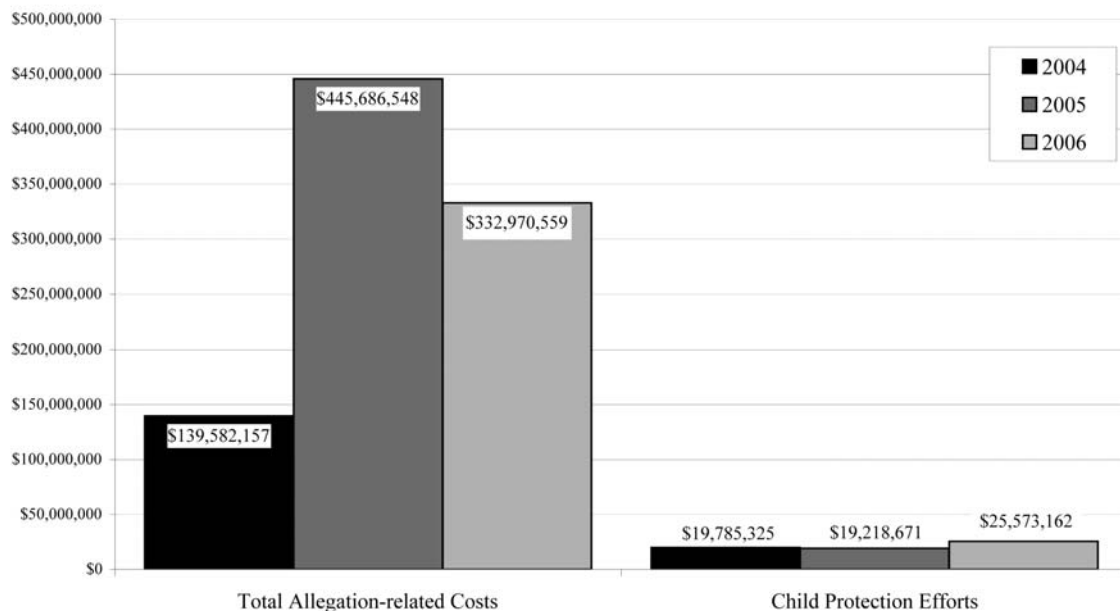
Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004-2006

Figure 11. Proportion of Total Allegation-Related Costs Paid by Insurance:
Dioceses and Eparchies.



Sources: *Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004-2006*

Figure 12. Costs for Settlements and Child Protection Efforts:
Dioceses and Eparchies.



Sources: *Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004-2006*

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 or provinces. 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 on December 1, 2006 to ask them to participate. CARA and CMSM also sent several e-mail and fax reminders to major superiors to encourage their participation. By February 19, 2007, CARA received responses from 150 of the 220 clerical religious institutes that belong to CMSM, for a response rate of 68 percent. This is a slightly higher response rate than the 67 percent that participated in the 2005 survey (148 of 221 possible) but lower than the 71 percent that participated in the 2004 survey (158 of 221).

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

Credible Allegations Received by Clerical and Mixed Religious Institutes in 2006

The responding clerical and mixed religious institutes reported that between January 1 and December 31,

2006, they received 79 new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor committed by a priest or deacon of the community. These allegations were made against 54 individuals who were priest or deacon members of the community at the time the offense was alleged to have occurred. Table 3 presents these numbers and the comparable numbers reported in 2004 and 2005. New reports of allegations have declined by 10 percent since 2005 and the number of alleged offenders declined by 22 percent.

Of the total number of new allegations reported in 2006, a total of three allegations (4 percent) involved children who were under the age of 18 in 2006. The other 76 allegations were made by adults who are alleging abuse as minors in previous years.

Figure 13 displays the way in which allegations were reported to the religious institutes in 2006. Approximately four in ten new allegations (39 percent) were reported by an attorney. More than a third (37 percent) were reported by the victim and 14 percent were reported to the religious institute by 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.

TABLE 3. New Credible Allegations Reported by Religious Institutes.

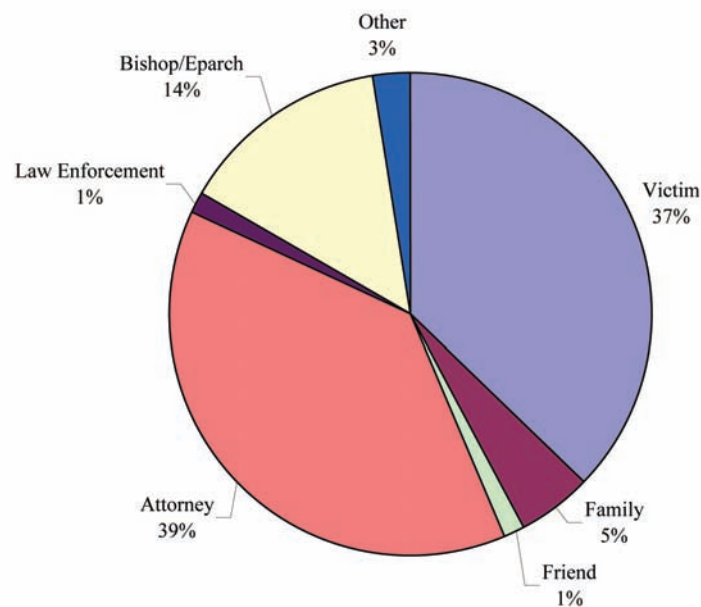
	2004	2005	2006	Change (+/-) 2005-2006	Percentage Change
Victims	194	87	78	-9	-10%
Allegations	194	88	79	-9	-10%
Offenders	134	69	54	-15	-22%

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004-2006

Compared to 2005, the proportion of all allegations that were reported by bishops or by family members decreased, and the proportion reported by victims or by attorneys increased. Some of the differences in reporting between 2005 and 2006 include:

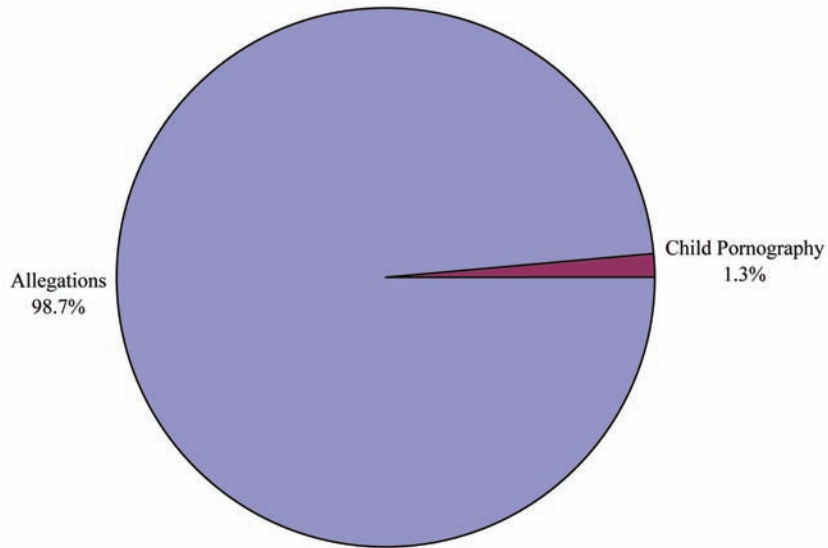
- Victims reported 32 percent of allegations in 2005 and 37 percent in 2006.
- Attorneys reported 22 percent of allegations in 2005 and 39 percent in 2006.
- A bishop or eparch reported 30 percent of allegations in 2005, compared to 14 percent in 2006.
- Family members reported 7 percent of allegations in 2005 and 5 percent in 2006.
- A friend of the victim reported 3 percent of allegations in 2005, compared to 1 percent in 2006.
- The percentages of law enforcement-reported allegations are identical in 2005 and 2006.
- Five percent of new credible allegations were reported by “Other” in 2005, compared to 3 percent in 2006.

Figure 13. Method of Reporting Allegations of Abuse: Religious Institutes.



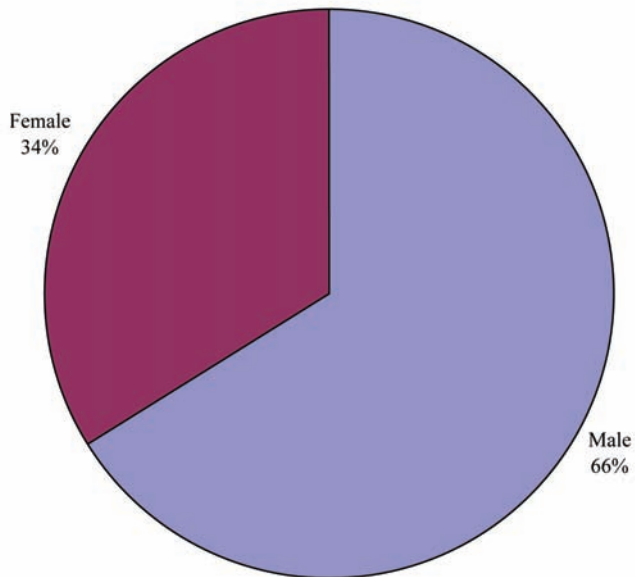
Source: 2006 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 14. Percentage of Allegations Involving Only Child Pornography: Religious Institutes.



Source: 2006 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 15. Gender of Abuse Victim: Religious Institutes.



Source: 2006 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 14 presents the percentage of all new allegations of abuse that were cases involving solely child pornography. Of the 79 new allegations, just one involved child pornography only. Similarly, one allegation in 2005 (and none in 2004) involved only child pornography.

Victims, Offenses, and Offenders in 2006

Two in three victims reported in 2006 were male (51 victims) and about one in three (26 victims) was female. This proportion is displayed in Figure 15.

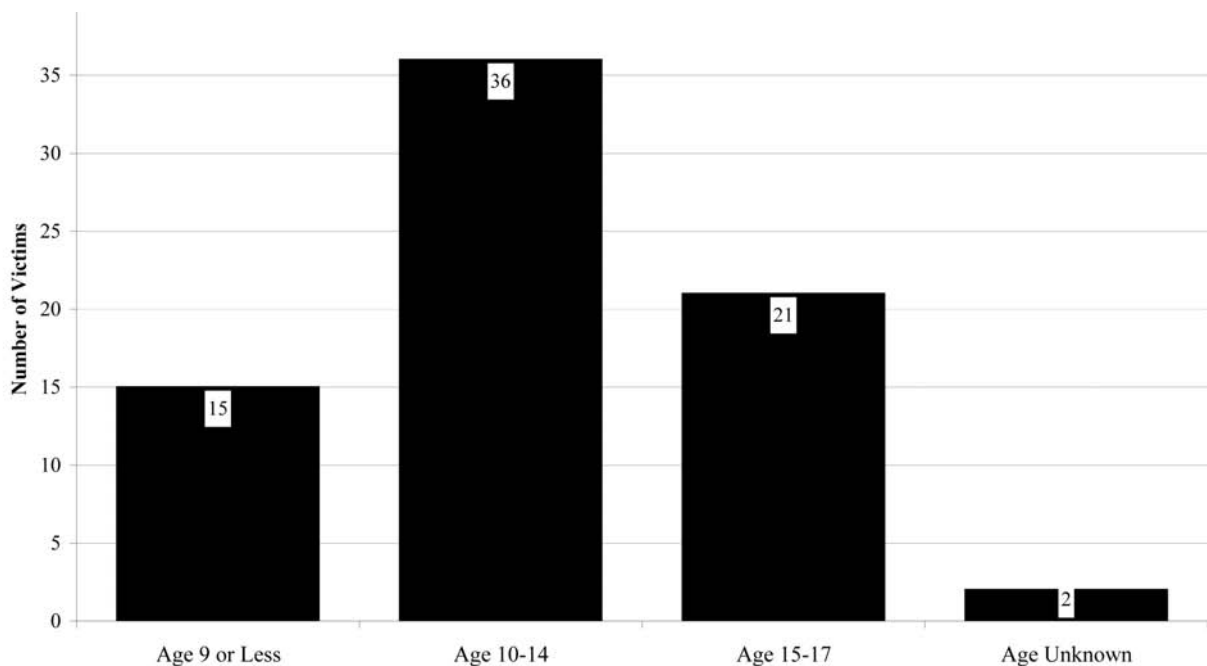
By comparison, in 2005 religious institutes reported that 81 percent of the alleged victims were male and 19 percent were female.

Close to half of victims (46 percent) were ages 10 to 14 when the alleged abuse began. More than a quar-

ter (27 percent) was between 15 and 17 when the alleged abuse began and approximately one in five (19 percent) was under age 10. The age of the victim could not be determined for two of the new allegations. Figure 16 presents the distribution of victims by age at the time the alleged abuse began.

Most of the new allegations reported in 2006 (73 percent) are alleged to have occurred or begun between 1960 and 1984. In 2006, religious institutes reported that 1970-1979 was the most common time period for the alleged occurrences. In both 2005 and 2004, religious institutes reported that the most common time period for the alleged offenses was 1965-1969. In all three reporting years, however, nearly one in five newly reported allegations (17 percent) were said to have occurred or begun in those years. Figure 17 illustrates the years when the allegations reported in 2006 were said to have occurred or begun.

Figure 16. Age of Victim When Abuse Began: Religious Institutes.



Source: 2006 Survey of Allegations and Costs

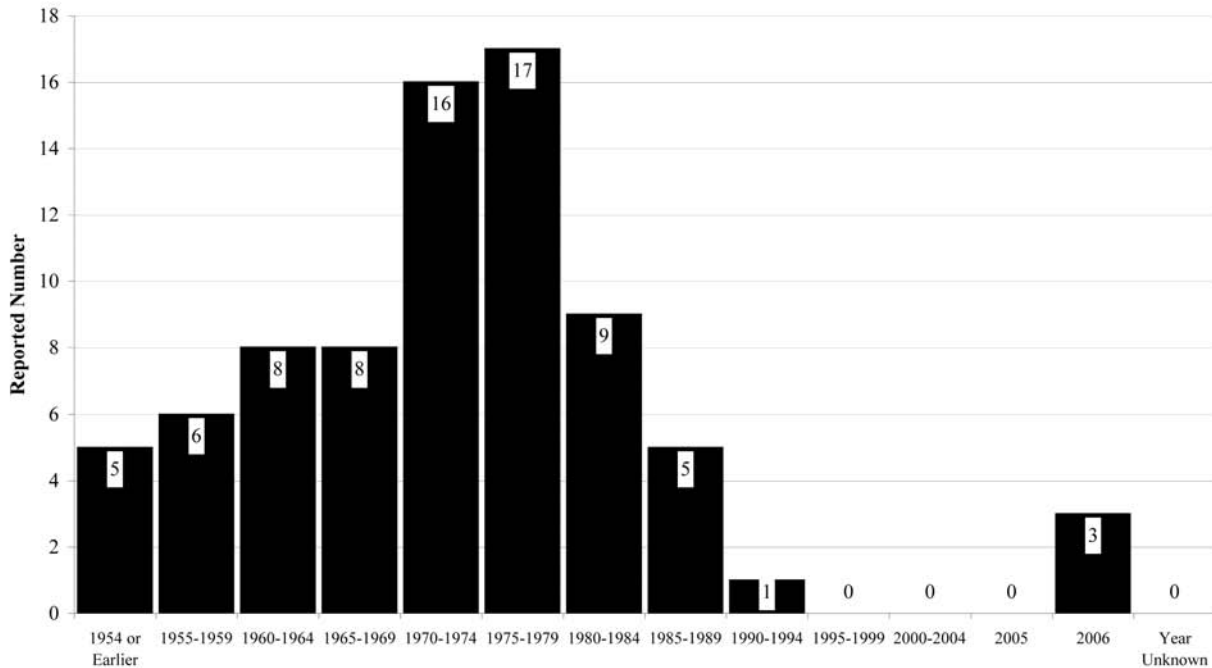
Of the 54 religious priests against whom new allegations were made in 2006, most were priests of a U.S. province or community, serving in the United States at the time the abuse was alleged to have occurred (74 percent). Figure 18 displays the ecclesial status of offenders at the time of the alleged abuse.

Just over one in ten alleged offenders (13 percent) were priests who were members of the province at the time of the alleged abuse but who are no longer a member of the religious institute. Four percent were priests of the province who were assigned outside of the United States at the time of the alleged abuse. Two percent were religious priests from another province who were serving in the province of the religious institute. None of the alleged offenders were deacons at the time the alleged abuse occurred.

A majority (61 percent) of the religious priests against whom new allegations were made in 2006 had already been the subject of previous allegations in prior years. About four in ten had no previous allegations. This is substantially different than in 2005, when two-thirds (65 percent) of the alleged perpetrators had no previous allegations. Figure 19 presents the proportions for 2005 and 2006.

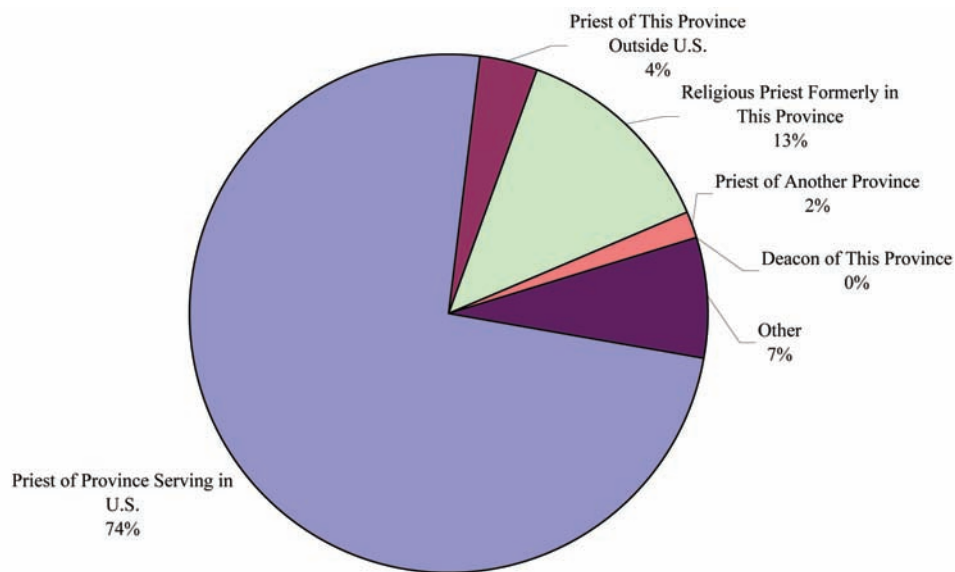
Seven in ten alleged offenders identified in 2006 (39 priests) were deceased, had already been removed from ministry, or had already left the religious institute at the time the allegation was reported. Another 7 percent (four priests) were permanently removed from ministry in 2006. Figure 20 displays the current status of alleged offenders.

Figure 17. Year Alleged Offense Occurred or Began: Religious Institutes.



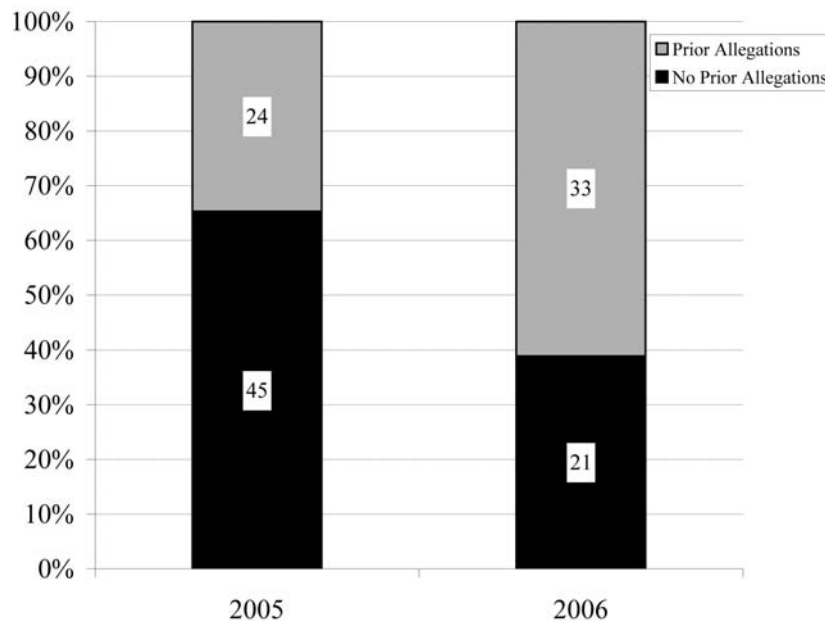
Source: 2006 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 18. Ecclesial Status of Alleged Perpetrator: Religious Institutes.



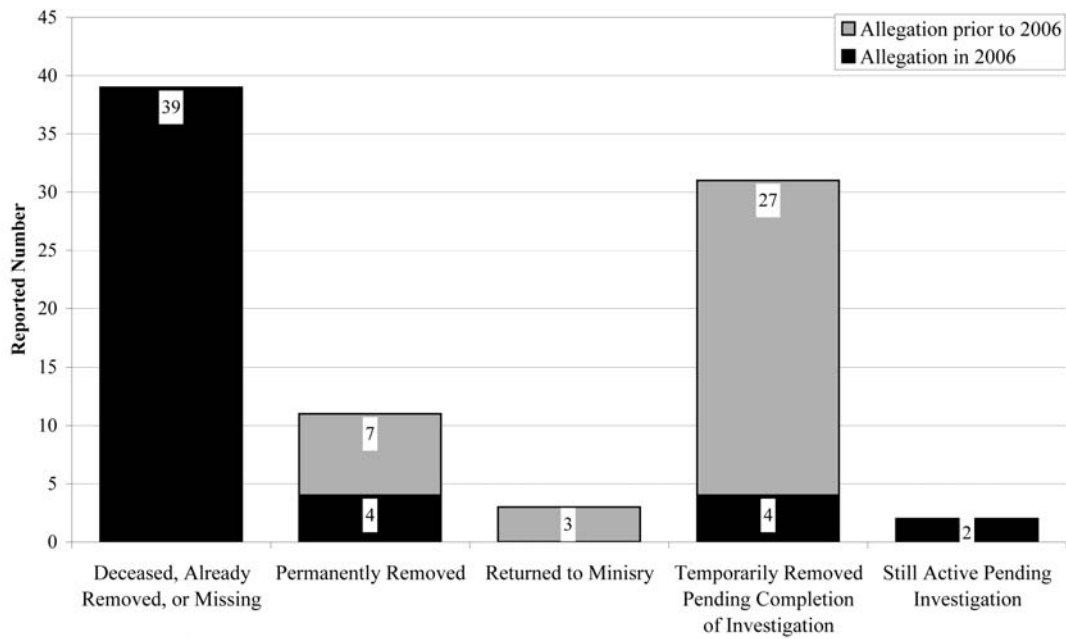
· 2006 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 19. Percentage of Alleged Perpetrators with Prior Allegations: Religious Institutes.



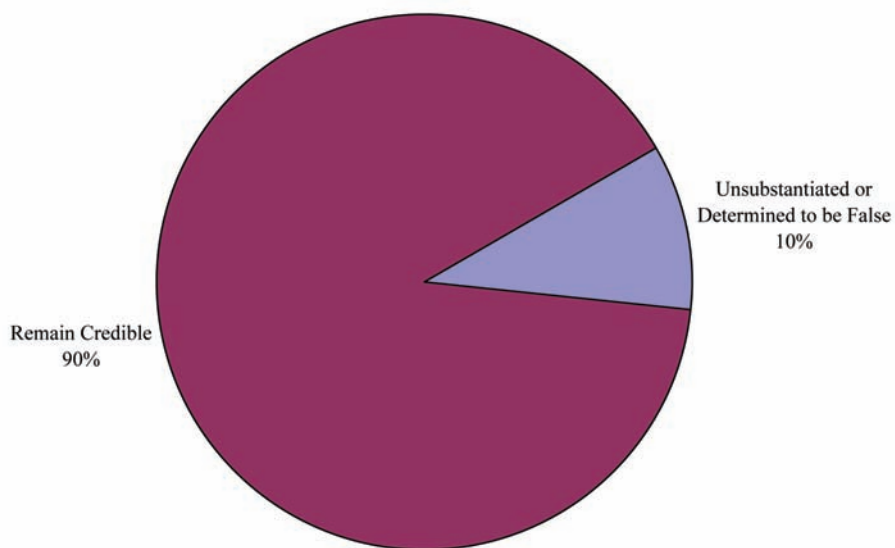
Sources: 2005 and 2006 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 20. Current Status of Alleged Perpetrators: Religious Institutes.



Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004-2006

Figure 21. New Allegations Unsubstantiated or Determined to Be False in 2006: Religious Institutes.



Source: 2006 Survey of Allegations and Costs

In addition to the four offenders identified in 2006 and permanently removed from ministry in 2006, another seven priests or deacons who had been identified in allegations of abuse *before* 2006 were permanently removed from ministry in 2006.

Three priests or deacons were returned to ministry in 2006 based on the resolution of an allegation made prior to 2006. No priests identified in new allegations in 2006 were returned to ministry in 2006. In addition, 31 religious priests or deacons (four who were identified in 2006 and 27 who were identified before 2006) were temporarily removed pending completion of an investigation. Notwithstanding the year in which the abuse was reported, two remain in active ministry pending a preliminary investigation of an allegation (both identified in allegations made in 2006).

Of the 78 new allegations reported to religious institutes in 2006, 10 percent (eight new allegations) were determined to be unsubstantiated by December 31, 2006. In addition, ten allegations received prior to 2006 were determined to be unsubstantiated during 2006. Figure 21 presents the percentage of all new allegations received in 2006 that were determined to be unsubstantiated in 2006.

Costs to Clerical and Mixed Religious Institutes in 2006

The responding clerical and mixed religious institutes reported \$65,627,135 paid out in 2006 for costs related to allegations. This includes costs paid in 2006 for allegations reported in previous years. Table 4 compares the payments by religious institutes from 2004 through 2006 across several categories of allegation-related expenses. The total reported allegation-related costs to clerical and mixed religious institutes is over \$44 million more in 2006 than in 2005.

Most of the payments by religious institutes in 2006 (87 percent) were for settlements to victims. Attorneys' fees were an additional \$5,374,850 (8 percent of all costs reported by religious institutes). Support for offenders (including therapy, living expenses, legal expenses, etc.) amounted to \$1,905,534 (3 percent).³ An additional \$913,924 (1 percent) was for payments for therapy for victims (if not included in the settlement).

Payments designated as "other costs" reported by religious institutes (\$318,595) included expenses for investigation of allegations, Pathways to Hope, external review board, pastoral care and conciliation, and Praesidium expenses.

TABLE 4. Costs Related to Allegations by Religious Institutes.

	2004	2005	2006	Change (+/-) 2005-2006
Settlements	\$12,877,637	\$13,027,285	\$57,114,232	+\$44,086,947
Therapy for Victims	\$793,053	\$755,971	\$913,924	+\$157,953
Support for Offenders	\$456,237	\$1,838,110	\$1,905,534	+\$67,424
Attorneys' Fees	\$3,544,847	\$4,784,124	\$5,374,850	+\$590,726
Other Costs	\$548,880	\$841,434	\$318,595	-\$522,839
GRAND TOTAL	\$18,220,654	\$21,246,924	\$65,627,135	+\$44,380,211

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004-2006

³ The difference in cost here between 2004 and later years is largely attributable to a change in question wording in 2005. See the explanation in the previous footnote.

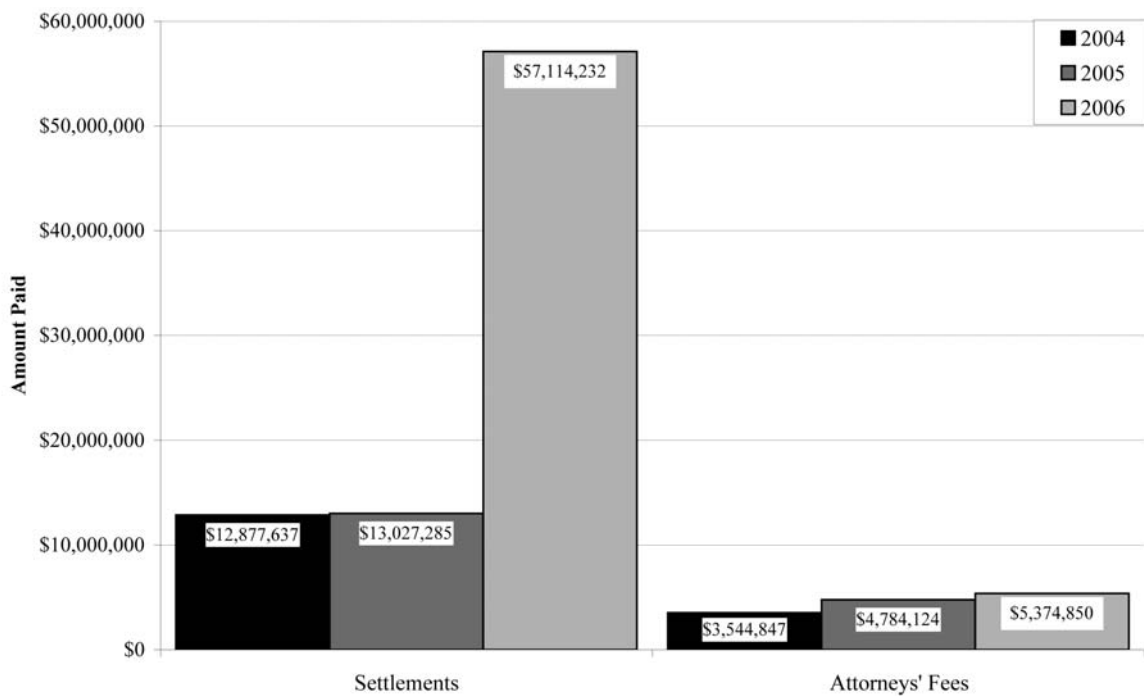
Figure 22 illustrates the settlement-related costs and attorneys' fees paid by religious institutes from 2004 through 2006. Three religious institutes with relatively large settlements in 2006 account for 75 percent of the settlement costs in that year.

Figure 23 displays the total allegation-related costs paid by these religious institutes from 2004 through 2006 and the proportion of those costs that were covered by insurance. Approximately 23 percent of the total allegation-related costs paid by religious institutes in 2006 were covered by insurance. By comparison, 13 percent of the total allegation-related costs in

2005 were covered by insurance and 12 percent of the total allegation-related costs in 2004 were covered by insurance.

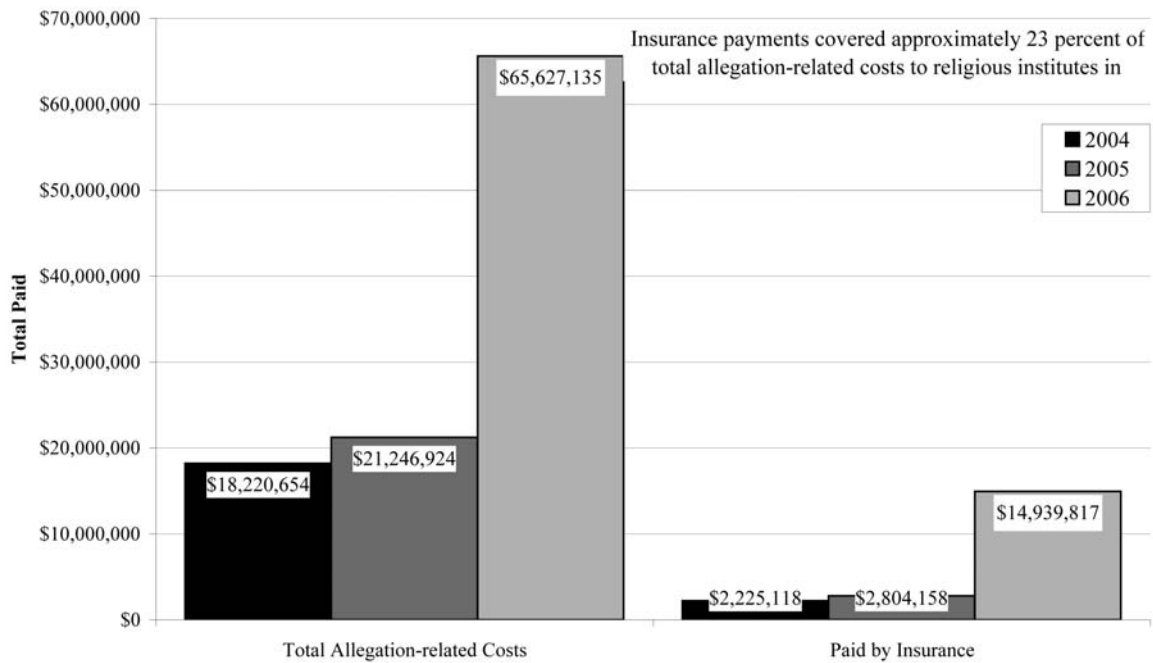
In addition to allegation-related expenditures, religious institutes spent \$1,428,569 for child protection efforts, such as training programs and background checks. This is nearly double the amount paid by religious institutes in 2005 for child protection efforts. Figure 24 compares the settlement-related costs to child protection expenditures paid by religious institutes in 2004 through 2006.

Figure 22. Payments for Settlements and Attorneys' Fees: Religious Institutes.



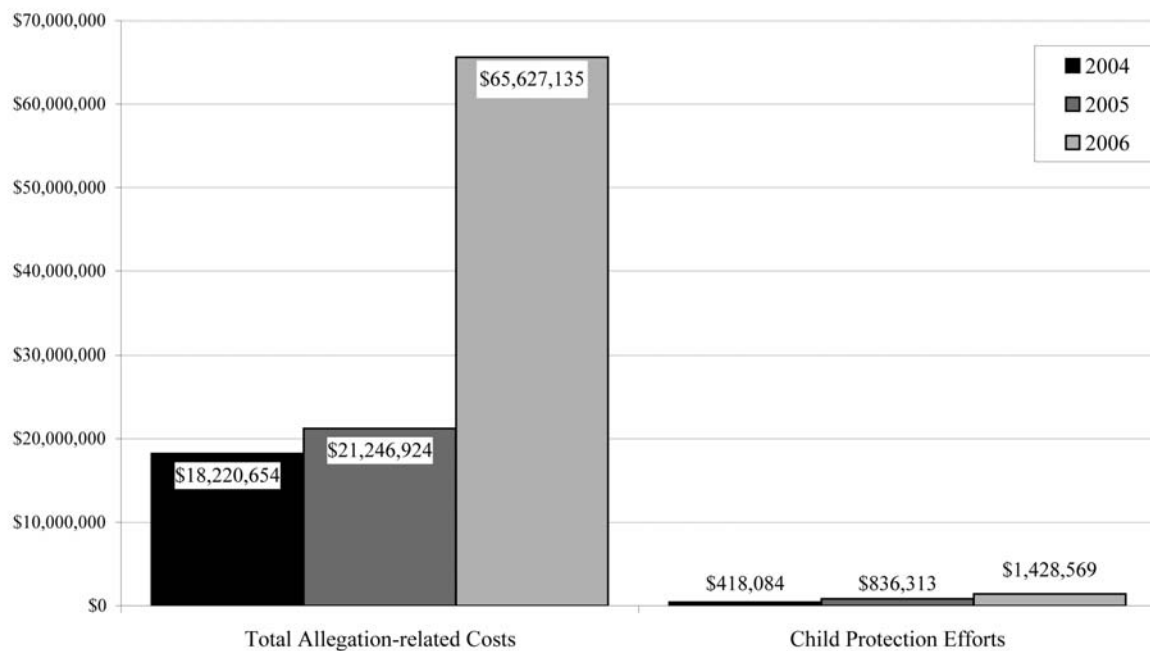
Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004-2006

Figure 23. Approximate Percentage of Total Paid by Insurance: Religious Institutes.



Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004-2006

Figure 24. Costs for Settlements and Child Protection Efforts: Religious Institutes.



Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004-2006

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

Tables 5, 6, and 7 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 both groups. In addition, these tables also show the same combined figures for 2004 and 2005 so that changes in the totals between 2004 and 2006 can be compared.

Table 5 illustrates that the total number of new allegations, victims, and alleged offenders have decreased each year from 2004 through 2006. Compared to 2005, the number of new allegations and victims are each down by 9 percent and the total number of offenders named in those new allegations is down by 16 percent.

Although the total number of new allegations declined from 2004 to 2006, Table 6 shows that the

total costs related to allegations increased dramatically from 2004 to 2005 and then decreased moderately between 2005 and 2006. The total allegation-related expenditures by dioceses, eparchies, and clerical and mixed religious institutes decreased by 15 percent between 2005 and 2006. However, most of the decrease was the result of a 31 percent decline in the amount paid for settlements in 2006. The cost for support for offenders more than doubled (136 percent increase) between 2005 and 2006 and the amount paid for attorneys' fees increased by 82 percent. The amount paid for therapy for victims increased by 27 percent, while other costs decreased by 27 percent.

Table 7 compares the total costs for allegation-related expenses to the amount expended for child protection efforts from 2004 through 2006. While the total amount spent for allegation-related expenses decreased by 31 percent between 2005 and 2006, the total amount reported for child protection efforts increased by 35 percent between 2005 and 2006.

TABLE 5. New Credible Allegations Reported.

	Combined Totals			Change (+/-) 2005-2006	Percentage Change
	2004	2005	2006		
Victims	1,083	777	710	-67	-9%
Allegations	1,092	783	714	-69	-9%
Offenders	756	532	448	-84	-16%

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004-2006

TABLE 6. Costs Related to Allegations.

	Combined Totals			Change (+/-) 2005-2006
	2004	2005	2006	
Settlements	\$106,241,809	\$399,037,456	\$277,213,420	-\$121,824,036
Therapy for Victims	\$7,406,336	\$8,404,197	\$10,645,739	+\$2,241,542
Support for Offenders	\$1,869,330	\$13,669,138	\$32,268,143	+\$18,599,005
Attorneys Fees	\$36,251,445	\$41,251,640	\$75,155,216	+\$33,903,576
Other Costs	\$6,033,891	\$4,571,041	\$3,315,176	-\$1,255,865
GRAND TOTAL	\$157,802,811	\$466,933,472	\$398,597,694	-\$68,335,778

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004-2006

TABLE 7. Costs for Settlements and Child Protection.

	Combined Totals			Change (+/-) 2005-2006
	2004	2005	2006	
Settlement-related	\$157,802,811	\$466,933,472	\$398,597,694	-\$68,335,778
Child Protection Efforts	\$20,199,409	\$20,054,984	\$27,001,731	+\$6,946,747

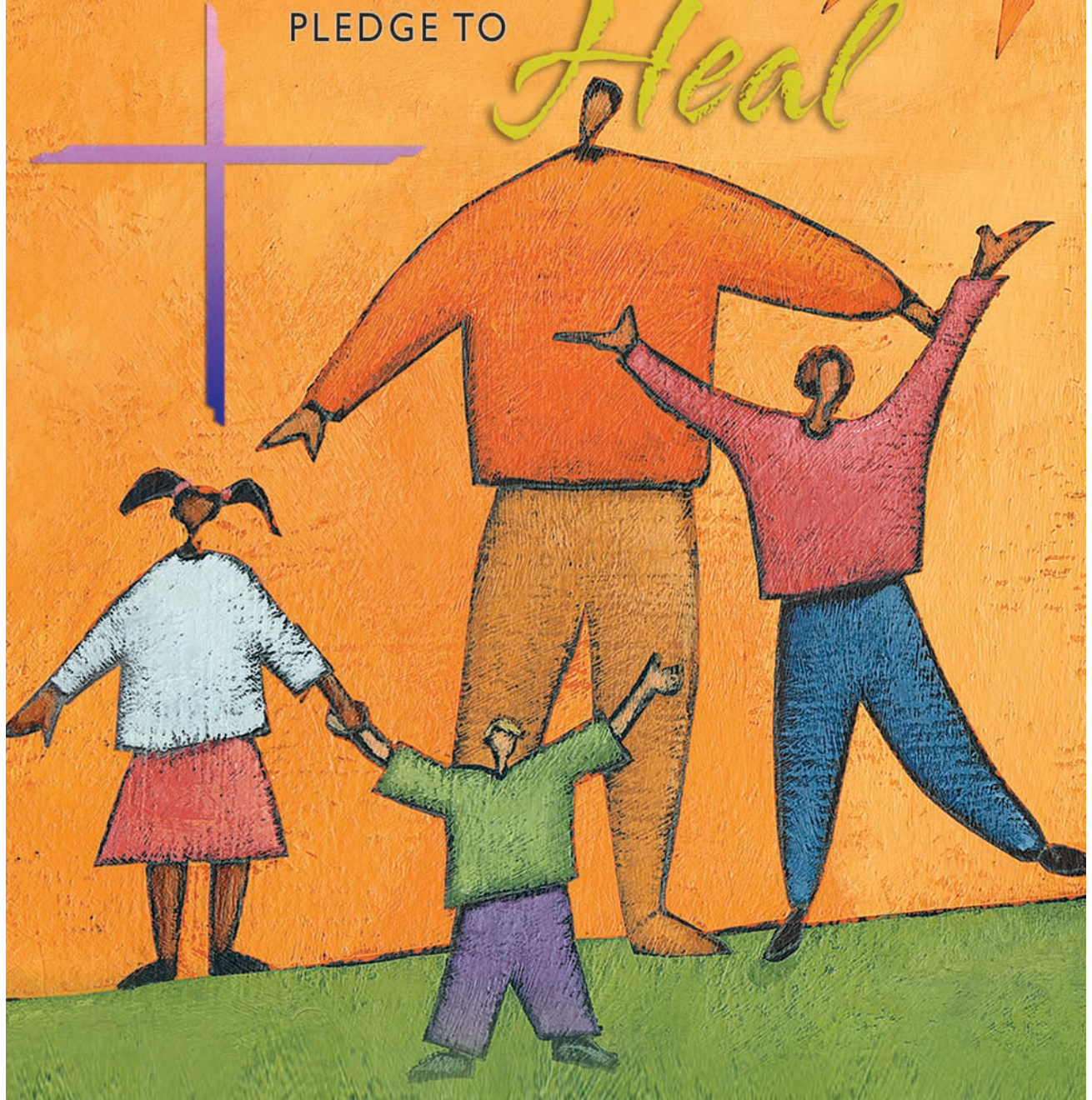
Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004-2006

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Section III

CHAPTER FOUR

Review of Recommendations in the 2005 Annual Report

Based on the findings of the 2005 Annual Report, the following eight recommendations were prepared by the Office of Child and Youth Protection and were approved by the National Review Board (NRB).

RECOMMENDATION 1

Dioceses/eparchies should review their procedures for initial telephonic outreach to victims in order to assure victims that they will receive a prompt response, and that their calls will be handled confidentially.

Status: Dioceses/eparchies received a memo with suggestions from Bishop Aymond, Chair of the Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People (CPCYP), on improving the message that victims receive when they contact the diocese/eparchy to report an incident of abuse.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Dioceses/eparchies should review the composition of diocesan review boards to ensure that the majority of voting members are lay persons appointed from the larger civic/church community, rather than Church employees.

Status: The *Guideline for Diocesan Review Boards* was reviewed by both the NRB and CPCYP and was forwarded to the Canonical Affairs Committee for review at its June 2007 meeting. The composition of diocesan review boards will be reviewed during the audit process.

RECOMMENDATION 3

The CPCYP and the NRB should prepare a protocol to be used when dioceses/eparchies are informed about reports of abuse by local law enforcement and child protective services without being directly contacted by the victim and/or the victim's family.

Status: After consideration of this recommendation by both the CPCYP and the NRB, it was decided that local situations vary sufficiently to make such a protocol impracticable.

RECOMMENDATION 4

Future audits should be conducted on-site, and self-reporting audits should be eliminated. On-site audits provide the auditors with the opportunity to interact more effectively with diocesan staff and the materials provided.

Status: The recommendation to eliminate self-reporting audits was modified during the selection process for the 2007-2009 auditor. The NRB/CPCYP joint Audit Committee recommended that full on-site audits be conducted in one third of the dioceses/eparchies each year beginning in 2008. The remaining dioceses/eparchies will be expected to submit a written report that will be reviewed by the auditing firm.

RECOMMENDATION 5

A standard, uniform audit period should be established for the time of the 2007 audit because this will facilitate

data gathering at the local level and will make the gathered data more useful when they are reported.

Status: The audit period has been standardized to begin on July 1 and end on June 30 of the following year. This will be fully implemented in 2008.

RECOMMENDATION 6

The definitions used in the 2005 audit to identify those for whom training and background checks are required should be retained in the 2006 Audit Instrument.

Status: The definitions used in the 2005 audit for Articles 12 and 13 were retained in the 2006 audit.

RECOMMENDATION 7

Workshops on audit preparation should be conducted in each region of the USCCB. Participants should include the diocesan bishop, those whom the diocesan bishop invites, and those who are responsible for completing the audit materials. The training sessions should address the following issues:

- Clarification of the scope of the audit
- Standards for compliance with each Article
- Necessity of using the audit instrument that is provided

Status: Workshops to help dioceses/eparchies to prepare for the 2007 audits were held in fourteen episcopal regions between December 5, 2006, and March 2, 2007.

RECOMMENDATION 8

Dioceses and eparchies should develop a computer use policy for all those who use the diocesan/eparchial computer system.

Status: Actual implementation is not known because this is not an audit item. However, an Anti-Pornography Workshop, co-sponsored by the CPCYP and the Communications Committee, is scheduled for September 13, 2007. Computer usage will be addressed during this workshop.

CHAPTER FIVE

2006 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the 2006 Annual Report, the following two recommendations were prepared by the Office of Child and Youth Protection and were approved by the National Review Board.

Dioceses/eparchies are determined to be compliant with the standards set forth in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* based on the accuracy and completeness of the data provided to the Gavin Group, Inc. For the most part, dioceses/eparchies depend on parishes and schools to provide these data. When a diocese/eparchy participates in a full on-site audit, with the agreement of the local bishop or eparch, the auditors contact or visit a few randomly selected parishes to determine that the requirements for the *Charter* are being met at the local level. This process varies from audit to audit.

It Is Recommended:

1. That a standardized approach to parish participation in the audit process be developed and implemented.

Processes for data collection and record keeping vary from diocese/eparchy to diocese/eparchy. In some places, data for audit compliance are collected and maintained at the diocesan/eparchial central office. In other places, audit-related data are maintained at the local level—in the parishes, schools, and other institutions. These local sites are responsible for reporting numbers of those trained and to be trained, and those for whom background evaluations are completed and need to be completed. When data and records are maintained at the local level, the diocese/eparchy depends on the parishes, schools, and institutions to provide accurate information.

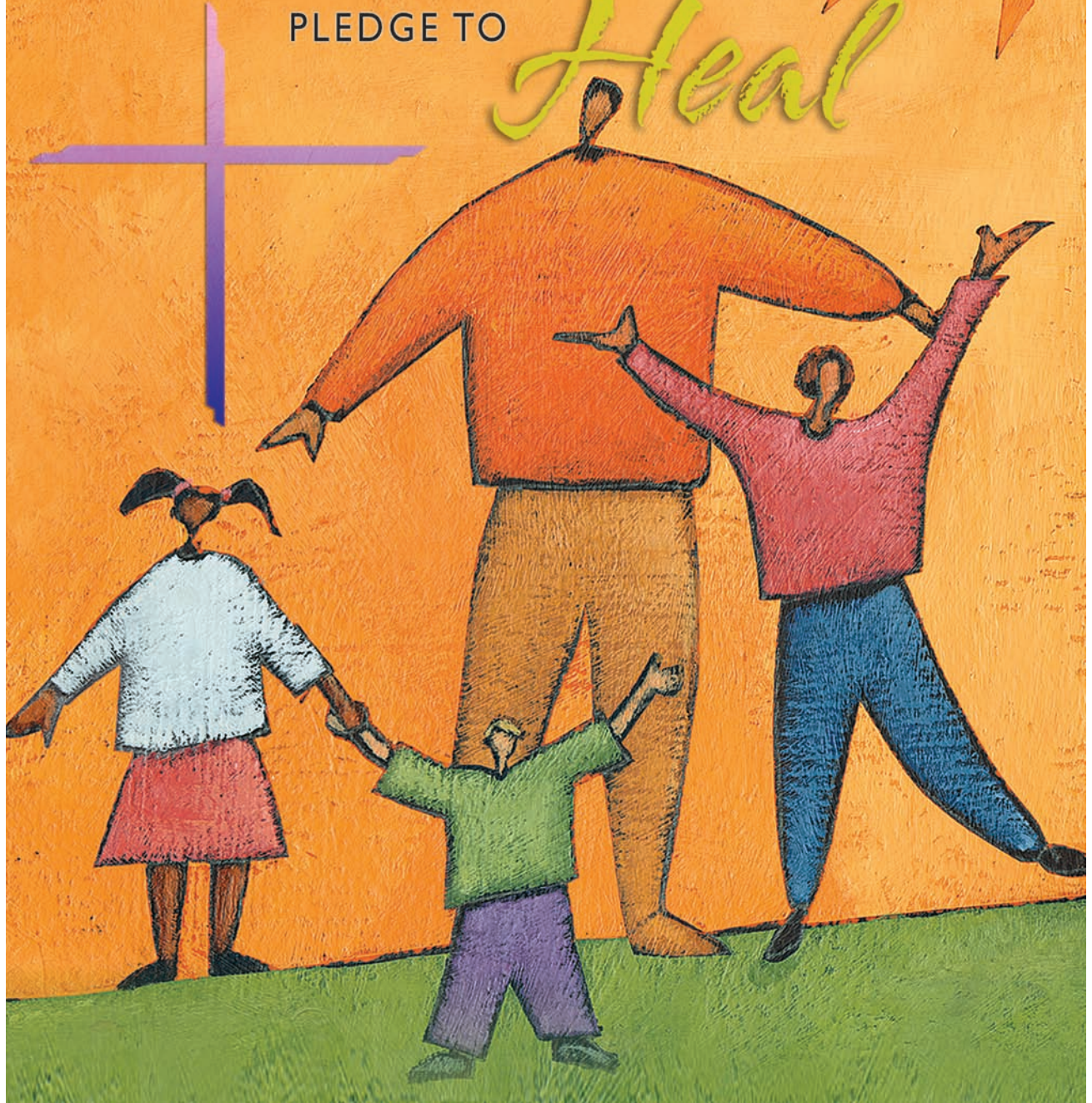
2. That bishops/eparchs create structures, or use existing ones, to verify the accuracy of the audit-related data at the parish, school, and institutional level.

PROMISE TO

Protect

PLEDGE TO

Heal



Appendices

APPENDIX I



**Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
2006 Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs**

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 CALENDAR YEAR –
JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31, 2006.**

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 bear the “semblance of truth”) are appropriate for inclusion in this survey.

635 1. Total number of new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor reported against a priest or deacon in the diocese between January 1 and December 31, 2006. (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).

- | | |
|---|---|
| <u>344</u> 3. Victim. | <u>14</u> 7. Law enforcement. |
| <u>49</u> 4. Family member of the victim. | <u>19</u> 8. Bishop or official from another diocese. |
| <u>6</u> 5. Friend of the victim. | <u>46</u> 9. Other: _____. |
| <u>155</u> 6. Attorney. | |

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

- 505 10. Male.
128 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).

- 106 12. 0-9.
327 13. 0-14.
114 14. 15-17.
85 15. Age unknown.

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

Choose only one category for each allegation. (The sum of items 16-29 should equal item 1).

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>33</u> 16. 1954 or earlier. | <u>100</u> 21. 1975-1979. | <u>8</u> 26. 2000-2004. |
| <u>38</u> 17. 1955-1959. | <u>76</u> 22. 1980-1984. | <u>4</u> 27. 2005. |
| <u>67</u> 18. 1960-1964. | <u>21</u> 23. 1985-1989. | <u>14</u> 28. 2006. |
| <u>108</u> 19. 1965-1969. | <u>16</u> 24. 1990-1994. | <u>40</u> 29. Time period unknown. |
| <u>99</u> 20. 1970-1974. | <u>9</u> 25. 1995-1999. | |

71 30a. Total number of new credible allegations received between January 1 and December 31, 2006 that were unsubstantiated or determined to be false by December 31, 2006.

46 30b. Total number of credible allegations received prior to January 1, 2006 that were unsubstantiated or determined to be false between January 1 and December 31, 2006.

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.

394 31. Total number of priests or deacons against whom new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor have been reported between January 1 and December 31, 2006.

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).

- 330 32. Diocesan priests ordained for this diocese or eparchy.
- 26 33. Diocesan priests incardinated later in this diocese or eparchy.
- 7 34. Extern diocesan priests from another U.S. diocese serving in this diocese or eparchy.
- 16 35. Extern diocesan priests from a diocese outside the United States serving in this diocese or eparchy.
- 6 36. Permanent deacons.
- 9 37. Other: _____.

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

- 226 38. Have had one or more previous allegations reported against them prior to January 1, 2006.
- 280 39. Are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing.
- 27 40. Have been permanently removed or retired from ministry between January 1 and December 31, 2006 based on allegations of abuse.
- 10 41. Have been returned to ministry between January 1 and December 31, 2006 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.
- 36 42. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of December 31, 2006).
- 15 43. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of December 31, 2006).

*Indicate the total number of alleged perpetrators identified **prior to January 1, 2006** that:*

- 65 44. Were permanently removed or retired from ministry between January 1 and December 31, 2006 based on allegations of abuse.
- 12 45. Were returned to ministry between January 1 and December 31, 2006 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.
- 120 46. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of December 31, 2006).
- 21 47. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of December 31, 2006).

COSTS

Indicate the approximate total amount of funds expended by the diocese between January 1 and December 31, 2006 for payments as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor (notwithstanding the year in which the allegation was received):

- \$220,099,188 48. All settlements paid to victims.
- \$9,731,815 49. Payments for therapy for victims (if separate from settlements).
- \$30,362,609 50. Payments for support for offenders (including living expenses, legal expenses, therapy, etc.).
- \$69,780,366 51. Payments for attorneys' fees.
- \$2,966,581 52. Other: _____.
- 27% 53. Approximate percentage of the amount in items 48-52 that was covered by diocesan insurance.

\$25,573,162 54. Total amount paid for all child protection efforts (training programs, background checks, etc.).

In the event it is necessary for CARA to contact you for clarification about the data reported here, please supply the following information. This contact information will not be recorded in the database.

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

Thank you for completing this survey.

APPENDIX II



Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate 2006 Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs

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

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

**ALL DATA REPORTED HERE REFER TO THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR –
JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31, 2006.**

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 bear the “semblance of truth”) are appropriate for inclusion in this survey.

79 1. Total number of new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor reported against a priest or deacon in the religious institute between January 1 and December 31, 2006. **(Only include members of the religious institute who are clergy.** Allegations against religious brothers should **NOT** be reported).

1 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 religious institute by:

Choose only one category for each allegation. (The sum of items 3-9 should equal item 1).

29 3. Victim.

1 7. Law enforcement.

4 4. Family member of the victim.

11 8. Bishop or other official from a diocese.

1 5. Friend of the victim.

2 9. Other: _____.

30 6. Attorney.

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

51 10. Male.

26 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).

15 12. 0-9.

36 13. 10-14.

21 14. 15-17.

2 15. Age unknown.

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

Choose only one category for each allegation. (The sum of items 16-28 should equal item 1).

5 16. 1954 or earlier.

17 21. 1975-1979.

0 26. 2000-2004.

6 17. 1955-1959.

9 22. 1980-1984.

0 27. 2005.

8 18. 1960-1964.

5 23. 1985-1989.

3 28. 2006.

8 19. 1965-1969.

1 24. 1990-1994.

0 29. Time period unknown.

16 20. 1970-1974.

0 25. 1995-1999.

8 30a. Total number of new credible allegations received between January 1 and December 31, 2006 that were unsubstantiated or determined to be false by December 31, 2006.

10 30b. Total number of credible allegations received prior to January 1, 2006 that were unsubstantiated or determined to be false between January 1 and December 31, 2006.

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.*

54 31. Total number of priests or deacons against whom new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor have been reported between January 1 and December 31, 2006.

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).

- 40 32. Religious priests of this province assigned within the United States.
- 2 33. Religious priests of this province assigned outside of the United States.
- 7 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.
- 0 36. Deacon members of the religious institute.
- 4 37. Other: _____.

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

- 33 38. Have had one or more previous allegations reported against them prior to January 1, 2006.
- 39 39. Are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing.
- 4 40. Have been permanently removed or retired from ministry between January 1 and December 31, 2006 based on allegations of abuse.
- 0 41. Have been returned to ministry between January 1 and December 31, 2006 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.
- 4 42. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of December 31, 2006)
- 2 43. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of December 31, 2006).

*Indicate the total number of alleged perpetrators identified **prior to January 1, 2006** that:*

- 7 44. Were permanently removed or retired from ministry between January 1 and December 31, 2006 based on allegations of abuse.
- 3 45. Were returned to ministry between January 1 and December 31, 2006 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.
- 27 46. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of December 31, 2006)
- 0 47. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of December 31, 2006).

COSTS

Indicate the approximate total amount of funds expended by the religious institute between January 1 and December 31, 2006 for payments as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor (notwithstanding the year in which the allegation was received):

- \$57,114,232 48. All settlements paid to victims.
- \$913,924 49. Payments for therapy for victims (if separate from settlements).
- \$1,905,534 50. Payments for support for offenders (including living expenses, legal expenses, therapy, etc.).
- \$5,374,850 51. Payments for attorneys' fees.
- \$318,595 52. Other: _____.
- 23% 53. Approximate percentage of the amount in items 48-52 that was covered by insurance of the religious institute.
- \$1,428,569 54. Total amount paid for all child protection efforts (training programs, background checks, etc.).

In the event it is necessary for CARA to contact you for clarification about the data reported here, please supply the following information. This contact information will not be recorded in the database.

Name and title of person completing this form: _____
 Institute: _____ Phone: _____

Thank you for completing this survey.
 Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University, Washington, DC 20057-1203
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APPENDIX III

2005 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.

With this 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, and we await the results of 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. In the last three 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 “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 taking 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 three years, the principles and procedures of the *Charter* have been integrated into church life.

- The Office for 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 Office also provides the means for us to be accountable for achieving the goals of the *Charter*, as demonstrated by its two 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 dioc-

san compliance with the *Charter* and to commission studies on the sexual abuse of minors, and it has issued its own *Report on the Crisis in the Catholic Church in the United States*.

- 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.
- 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.

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 three 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).

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 not proven, every step possible is to be taken to restore his good name, should it have been harmed.

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

ARTICLE 6. There are to be clear and wellpublicized 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 commu-

nities directly affected by ministerial misconduct involving minors.

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 for 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 Office 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 Office and the National Review Board.

ARTICLE 9. The Office for Child and Youth Protection, established by the Conference of Catholic Bishops, is to staff the Committee for 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 Office 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 for 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 Office is appointed by and reports to the General Secretary. The Executive Director is to provide the Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People and the National Review Board with regular reports of the Office’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 for 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 Office 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 for 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 for the Protection of Children and Young People on matters of child and youth protection, specifically on policies and best practices. The Board and Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People will meet jointly several times a year.

The Board will review the work of the Office 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 is to oversee the completion of the study of the causes and context of the recent crisis. The Board will offer its assessment of the data gathered and preliminary results to the Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People as the study moves forward.

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, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, and the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious 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 for 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 pledge our complete cooperation with the Apostolic Visitation of our diocesan/eparchial seminaries and religious houses of formation recommended in the Interdicasterial Meeting with the Cardinals of the United States and the Conference Officers in April 2002.

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 new 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*, and the *Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests*. We will

continue to assist priests, deacons, and seminarians in living out their vocation in faithful and integral ways.

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, especially 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.

CONCLUSION

As we wrote three years ago, “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 reaffirm once again that the vast majority of priests and deacons serve their people faithfully and that they have the esteem and affection of their people. They also have our love and esteem and our commitment to their good names and well-being.

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

It is with reliance on prayer and penance that we renew the pledges which we made in the original *Charter*:

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

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

We pledge that we will do our best to ordain to the priesthood and put into positions of trust only those

who share this commitment to protecting children and youth.

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

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

This *Charter* is published for the dioceses/eparchies of the United States. It is to be reviewed again in five years by the Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People with the advice of the National Review Board. The results of this review are to be presented to the full Conference of Bishops for confirmation.

NOTE

- * In accord with *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela* (SST), article 4 §1, sexual abuse, for purposes of this *Charter*, shall include any offense by a cleric against the Sixth Commandment of the Decalogue with a minor as understood in the *Code of Canon Law*, c. 1395 §2 (“A cleric who in another way has committed an offense against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue, if the delict was committed by force or threats or publicly or with a minor below the age of sixteen years [raised in SST to eighteen years which has been the age of majority for the USA since 1994], is to be punished with just penalties, not excluding dismissal from the clerical state if the case so warrants”) and the *Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches*, c. 1453 §1 (“A cleric who lives in concubinage or gives permanent scandal by publicly sinning against chastity is to be punished with a suspension, to which, other penalties can be gradually added up to deposition, if he persists in the offense”).

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.



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