

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

This is the seventh Annual Report of the results of audits conducted by The Gavin Group, Inc., compiled by the USCCB Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, to ascertain diocesan/eparchial compliance with the bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. As mentioned in last year's report, the 2008 audits began a three-year auditing cycle: each year, one-third of the dioceses/eparchies receive a full on-site audit, and the remaining two-thirds of the dioceses/eparchies participate in a collection, compilation, and review of data. The goal is to have every diocese/eparchy receive at least one full on-site audit every three years. The year 2009 was the second year in this auditing cycle, with 73 dioceses/eparchies participating in full on-site audits and 116 dioceses/eparchies participating in data collection audits.

Additionally, the bishops of 19 dioceses consented to have the auditors conduct detailed interviews in parishes to determine the extent of *Charter* understanding and compliance at the parish level, an increase of two over 2008 numbers. The parishes were selected by agreement between the dioceses and auditors, with consideration being given to parishes from various types of locations (such as urban, suburban, and rural) as well as those with schools and those without. Interviews included the pastor, school principal if applicable, and staff member(s) designated to coordinate the safe environment program training. Most interviews were conducted in person, although some were conducted by telephone. Those diocese/eparchies consenting to having parish interviews are the following:

- Archdiocese of Baltimore
- Diocese of Belleville
- Archdiocese of Chicago

- Diocese of Colorado Springs
- Diocese of Covington
- Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle of Detroit for the Chaldeans
- Diocese of Grand Island
- Diocese of Honolulu
- Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas
- Archdiocese of Los Angeles
- Diocese of Manchester
- Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- Diocese of Pittsburgh
- Diocese of Portland, Maine
- Diocese of San Bernardino
- Diocese of San Francisco
- Diocese of Savannah
- Diocese of Superior
- Diocese of Worcester

For various reasons, six of the dioceses/eparchies refused to be audited:

- Diocese of Lincoln
- Eparchy of Saint Peter the Apostle for Chaldeans
- Eparchy of Newton for Melkites
- Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg in New York for Armenian Catholics
- Eparchy of St. Josaphat of Parma for Ukrainians
- Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark for Syrians

Because the *Charter* in Article 9 requires the audits, this one diocese and five eparchies are not in compliance with the *Charter*.

Six dioceses that did receive audits were found to be non-compliant with the article sections noted below. All but two dioceses were able to remedy the non-compliance prior to the end of 2009.

Non-Compliant Dioceses/Eparchies (with Remediation Noted, If Achieved)

Diocese of Baker	Article 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of children
Diocese of Fresno	Article 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of children and inadequate record-keeping
Archdiocese of Indianapolis	Article 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to report abuse of a minor to civil authorities <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Remedied during the audit.</p>
Diocese of Orlando	Article 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of priests, deacons, candidates, educators, employees, and volunteers and inadequate record-keeping • Letters from pastors to their bishop confirming implementation of the <i>Charter</i> in their parishes <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Remedied December 17, 2009, after re-audit.</p>
Diocese of Paterson	Article 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of background evaluations for employees and volunteers <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Remedied December 13, 2009, after re-audit.</p>
Archdiocese of San Francisco	Article 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public ministry and the credibly accused clergy <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Remedied November 30, 2009.</p>

Additionally, 23 Management Letters were issued: 9 for dioceses/eparchies that participated in full on-site audits, and 14 for dioceses/eparchies that participated in the data collection audits. Management Letters were letters sent to a diocese/eparchy by The Gavin Group, Inc., to bring to the bishop’s or eparch’s attention issues identified by the auditor that, though they did not rise to the level of non-compliance, might result in a more serious concern down the road if left unaddressed. Accordingly, these concerns were brought to the attention of the bishop/eparch

to handle as he deemed appropriate. The purpose of these letters was to help the dioceses/eparchies improve the implementation of the *Charter* in the respective diocese/eparchy prior to the issue becoming a compliance deficiency. The majority of these letters concerned suggestions that the diocesan or eparchial record-keeping systems be reviewed and assessed for possible improvement to ensure that accurate accounting exists for those who have received safe environment training or for whom background evaluations have been conducted. Other letters covered a myriad of issues, from the timeliness of the response to calls from victims, to making the contact information for the victim assistance coordinator more visible, to the frequency of safe environment training in the diocese or eparchy.

During the 2009 audit period, 738 abuse allegations came to the attention of the dioceses/eparchies: 717 from adult victims/survivors who came forward regarding abuse of years past, and 21 allegations involving the abuse of current minors. The disposition of these allegations at the time of the audit is reported under Article 4 in Chapter 3, “Audit Findings.” **It is important to note that though the 717 allegations from adults came to the attention of the dioceses/eparchies in 2009, the allegations were *historical* in nature.**

The *Charter* compliance audits are tremendous accountability tools for the bishops. While many dioceses/eparchies were conducting safe environment training and background evaluations prior to the *Charter*, annual, external, and public audits provide the dioceses/eparchies with an opportunity to prove that they are helping victims/survivors heal, are doing what is necessary to prevent child sexual abuse in parishes, and are keeping their “promise to protect and pledge to heal.”

The Management Letters have been appreciated by the bishops and the dioceses as they continue their efforts to strength the implementation and integration of the *Charter* within their respective dioceses/eparchies. The audit process is a challenging process on a number of different levels, but the overall benefit, when measured against the healing of victims/survivors and the safety of children, is invaluable.