



Diocese of Charlotte

1123 South Church Street  
Charlotte, NC 28203  
(704)370.6299

# Press Release

Contact: David Hains  
Phone: (704)370.3336

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **DIOCESE RELEASES JOHN JAY STUDY STATISTICS**

As a part of its ongoing commitment to effectively deal with the sin of sexual abuse of children by some clergy the Diocese of Charlotte is releasing information included in the John Jay Study. The National Review Board and The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) ordered the study as a part of its 2002 **Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People**. The bishops have stated publicly that only when the truth is known can credibility be restored. The bishops know that they cannot change history, but by taking decisive action collectively and in their respective dioceses, they can demonstrate their commitment to ensuring as much as humanly possible, that history does not repeat itself.

The John Jay Study is named for the John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York. The study is a quantitative analysis of the sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy from 1950 to 2002. After the John Jay Study is released the National Review Board will release a qualitative report based on interviews with about 60 individuals – including bishops.

~ MORE ~

With the information from both studies, the bishops can determine whether the steps they have already taken will address the problem or if additional steps are needed. The information in the John Jay Study represents dioceses/eparchies in the United States and is not diocese specific. The statistics, from the Diocese of Charlotte will also be available on February 27<sup>th</sup> in *The Catholic News & Herald* and on the diocesan website at [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).

The Diocese of Charlotte was created in 1972. From 1972-2002 there were 677 active and retired priests in the Diocese of Charlotte. Based on a review of diocesan records 13 priests had allegations of sexual misconduct made against them. Upon investigation two of the 13 priests were exonerated. The percentage of priests in the diocese with allegations against them during this period is 1.9%. Of the 11 men for whom substantiated allegations were made, none are in ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte. During this same period of 30 years, 18 allegations of sexual misconduct were made against clergy and the diocese paid \$704,439 for counseling and other services to victims, and for legal fees. During 2003 no additional allegations were made, but an additional \$10,892 was paid for counseling. Diocesan insurance funds and the diocesan general fund were used for payments. No money from the Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) and no parish savings were used.

Since 1994 the Diocese of Charlotte has had formal policies in place to respond to allegations of sexual abuse of children by clergy. A diocesan review board was first appointed in 1994. The current board is principally composed of laypersons not employed by the diocese. The diocese has also appointed three victims assistance coordinators to provide counseling and support to victims and their families.

In August of 2003 independent representatives of the USCCB Office of Child and Youth Protection audited the Diocese of Charlotte. The audit, published January 6, 2004 showed the

diocese to be in compliance with the provisions of the charter. The diocese received two commendations for its early proactive initiatives to ensure the protection of children and for its comprehensive Safe Environment Program that requires background checks and training for religious and non-religious personnel as well as volunteers who work with children. So far, more than 7,000 diocesan employees and volunteers have completed the Protecting God's Children Training Program to help them recognize and prevent the sexual abuse of children.

In releasing the figures the Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis, Bishop of Charlotte said, "The publication of this information affirms the pledge of the Diocese of Charlotte to root out the sinful crime of sex abuse and to do everything humanly possible to make sure that it will not recur."

The Diocese of Charlotte serves 46 western North Carolina counties and 140,000 registered Catholics.

###