

February 27, 2004

Statement by Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
On Release of John Jay Study by U.S. Conference of Bishops

The findings from The John Jay Study on "The Nature and Scope of the Problem of the Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests and Deacons in the United States", released today, represent a major advance in the committed drive to examine, define and credibly report the true scope and damage of this terrible sin and betrayal.

An evil must be named and defined before it can be successfully confronted. This study brings the bright light of transparency to this evil and its causes. Now all the provisions of the U S Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young Adults, adopted in 2002, can continue forward to redress, as much as that is possible, the great damage and pain caused to victims and to face candidly and completely the organizational weaknesses that enabled this sorrow to occur.

On December 11, 2003, The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis released the results of the local review of its sexual abuse complaints of minors by clergy, responding to the John Jay study. Those results have been reported in the Archdiocese's *Catholic Spirit* weekly newspaper and in the secular media and are also available on the Archdiocese's web site: www.archspm.org. The review found that a total of 26 diocesan priests have had credible allegations of sexual abuse involving minors over a 50 year period, representing 2.2 percent of the total of 1,131 diocesan priests who had served in the Archdiocese during that 50 year period. If priests from religious orders and other dioceses who have served here during those 50 years are included in the total, then seven more priests, or 33 in total, are known to have credible accusations of abuse of minors. That represents 1.1 percent of the total 3,026 diocesan, religious and other diocese priests who have served in the Archdiocese over those 50 years.

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