

ARCHDIOCESAN RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ABUSE

The “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” provides a comprehensive framework for addressing allegations of sexual abuse and for creating safe environments in parishes and schools, and it directs all sexual abuse policies and procedures in the Archdiocese of Louisville. In November 2007, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops audited our diocese for the fourth time and as was determined in each previous audit, the Archdiocese of Louisville was found to be fully compliant with all elements of the Charter, with no required changes or recommendations for changes.

PREVENTION/EDUCATION

- 2,715 employees and volunteers participated in safe environment programming bringing the total trained to 15,793. Workshops continue to be offered each month throughout the Archdiocese.
- All employees and volunteers who work with children and youth undergo a criminal background check.
- An extensive web page is online to provide information on child abuse prevention, resources for parents, safe environment programs, and other materials. See <http://www.archlou.org>.
- Presentations and workshops on sexual abuse and related issues are offered to parishes and other organizations as requested.

SEXUAL ABUSE REVIEW BOARD

- The Review Board reviews past and present cases and monitors the implementation of our sexual abuse policies.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND OUTREACH

- The victim assistance coordinator, Dr. Tom Robbins, meets and assists victims/survivors. He can be reached by calling 502/636-1044 or emailing trobbsins@archlou.org. The Archdiocese continues to offer counseling assistance to victims/survivors.

COOPERATION WITH CIVIL AUTHORITIES

- Any report or suspicion of children abuse is reported immediately to civil authorities, and the Archdiocese cooperates fully with any investigation. Soon after his arrival, Archbishop Kurtz met with a representative from the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office and promised continued cooperation.

PRIEST ASSIGNMENT AND STATUS

- All priests with a substantiated accusation of childhood sexual abuse have been removed from public ministry. All of the cases of priests with substantiated cases of childhood sexual abuse have been reported to and resolved by the Holy See.

SEXUAL ABUSE EXPENDITURES

We have pledged to be accountable for how funds are used to address sexual abuse. Here is a summary reflecting funds that the Archdiocese was committed to pay beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008:

Counseling Fees and Support for Victims/Survivors	\$20,537
Legal Fees	\$4,057
Prevention/Education	<u>\$18,394</u>
TOTAL	\$42,988