

Archdiocesan Response to Sexual Abuse

Successful implementation of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” continues in the Archdiocese. The Charter provides a comprehensive framework for addressing allegations of sexual abuse and for creating safe environments in parishes and schools. In October 2004 and August 2005, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops audited our diocese for the second and third times. In both audits, the Archdiocese of Louisville was found to be fully compliant with all elements of the Charter.

Sexual Abuse Review Board—The Review Board meets regularly to review past and present cases and to monitor the implementation of our sexual abuse policies.

Victim Assistance and Outreach –Two victim assistance coordinators, Dr. Tom Robbins and Ms. Brenda Marshall, meet and assist victims/survivors. They can be reached by calling 502/636-1044. The Archdiocese continues to offer counseling assistance to victims/survivors.

Prevention/Education – The new archdiocesan web page contains archdiocesan sexual abuse policies, parent information, safe environment information and community resources. At this point more than 8,500 employees and volunteers have participated in comprehensive safe environment training. In addition a team of 25 resource persons have been trained to continue safe environment programs at parishes and schools. Safe environment contact persons are being identified at each parish to ensure that staff and volunteers pursue training and that criminal background records checks are conducted properly.

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 and resolved by the Holy See. The status of each priest is reported below:

Daniel Clark - Dismissed from the priesthood

Thomas Creagh - Dismissed from the priesthood

Robert Dollinger – Directed to live a life of prayer and penance

James Hargadon - Died in 2005 (had been directed to live a life of prayer and penance)

Joseph Herp - Dismissed from the priesthood

Louis Miller - Dismissed from the priesthood

Joseph Mouser - Directed to live a life of prayer and penance

Edwin Scherzer - Directed to live a life of prayer and penance

Joseph Stoltz - Resigned from the priesthood

The Holy See decides on a life of prayer and penance for some of these priests because of health problems or advanced age. These priests may not participate in any public ministry or pastoral assignment. They may not celebrate Mass publicly, administer the sacraments, wear clerical garb, or present themselves as priests. They may not have any unsupervised contact with children or vulnerable adults.

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, 2004 and ending June 30, 2005:

Counseling Fees for Victims/Survivors	\$19,338
Settlement for Victims/Survivors	95,000
Legal Fees	133,850 ¹
Prevention/Education	30,083 ²
Miscellaneous	1,096 ³
Accused Priests	<u>91,343 ⁴</u>
TOTAL	\$370,710

¹ A significant portion of these costs relates to pending lawsuits involving the St. Thomas/St. Vincent orphanage.

² Includes direct costs for printing, facilities, Center for Woman and Families support, and the USCCB audit. Does not include archdiocesan staff payroll.

³ Includes canonical expenses for reports on each accused priest sent to the Holy See.

⁴ \$35,683 of this total is for retired and former priests who are only receiving retirement benefits.