



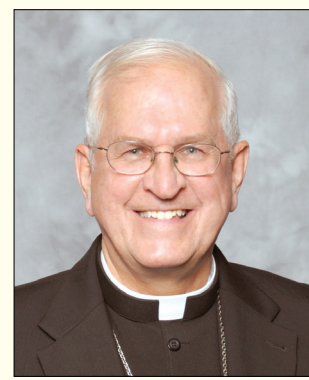
# REPORT TO THE CATHOLIC PEOPLE

## Letter from the Archbishop

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

May God bless you! Amid the offenses of a prelate in the Church as well as accounts of sexual abuse that took place in dioceses of Pennsylvania, we are distressed and angered by horrible events in which bishops, priests, and other church leaders broke the sacred trust with those they have promised to serve as well as their promises of chaste living. This history brings to the surface deep wounds of victim survivors of sexual abuse and testifies to the depth of the grave harm that has been done. This harm has been compounded by the inaction, negligence, or inadequate response of bishops. I personally have felt the weight of these scandals.

In the Archdiocese of Louisville, we share a sad history of such abuse. This pastoral report to you, the faithful of the Archdiocese, aims to bring the light of truth and the healing of Jesus Christ into the darkness of these sinful actions. The wounds of abuse, even if decades old, reveal the terrible damage and pain for victims harmed by the sin and crime of sexual abuse. Our hearts go out to the



victims and their loved ones. This report details the history of abuse as well as the steps that have been taken to provide healing for victims and a safe environment for all, especially children and youth. It also emphasizes our effort to report to public authorities any abuse about which we learn. Though much has been done, great vigilance continues to be required. In the midst of great suffering and discouragement, we seek the light and grace of Jesus Christ, grounded in the truth of the Gospel. So, with humility and sincerity, I invite you to study this document. It is my desire that we can go forward to seek healing for those

wounded so deeply, take decisive action with those who have abused others, and build up, with God’s grace, a community of truth and charity that is a safe haven for all. On October 5, many of you joined me in fasting and prayer, convinced that no lasting change can come about without lament for the harm done in the past and the gift of wisdom and courage to announce the Gospel of Jesus with our lives. Thank you for this action of solidarity with victims of sexual abuse and for your prayers for reform in our Church. I make a personal pledge to you, the faithful, to act decisively on behalf of survivors of sexual abuse and to ensure that any future abuse is confronted swiftly and justly. I am encouraged by those of you who continue to love and serve the Lord with all your heart. You help me to grow in my own relationship with Christ. Please pray for me, and I will continue to pray for you. Sincerely yours in our Lord, Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D. Archbishop of Louisville

## Letter from the Sexual Abuse Review Board

Dear Parishioners of the Archdiocese of Louisville,

We, the laypersons of the Archdiocese of Louisville Sexual Abuse Review Board, want to speak out about the scandal of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church. The abuse reports in Pennsylvania have shaken and angered all of us. It has called to our minds how we can be more transparent as a Church. It is a tragedy that a small percentage of priests rain shame on the many priests who, day after day, live their vows of Holy Orders and a chaste life. Some of the lay members joined the Review Board in 2002 when it was established, and others have joined in more recent years. The lay members have always had the majority vote. We always have foremost in our mission compassion and respect for the abused and due process for the abused and accused. We cannot speak for any other diocese in Kentucky or elsewhere, but we can share what has been accomplished in the Archdiocese of Louisville since 2002. This report is being published by the Archdiocese to outline what has happened over these years, so we will not repeat all of that information in this letter.

In 2003, the document *Restoring Trust: The Sexual Abuse Policies of the Archdiocese of Louisville* was revised to reflect the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* created by the bishops of the United States. We encourage you to read these policies, which can be found at [www.archlou.org/restoringtrust](http://www.archlou.org/restoringtrust). In partnership with The Center for Women and Families, the Archdiocese also developed its safe environment program entitled, Honor Thy Children: A Safe Environment Program of the Archdiocese of Louisville. We encourage all of you to attend a safe environment session. These are offered regularly throughout the Archdiocese – see [www.archlou.org/safe](http://www.archlou.org/safe). We take pride in being cited positively by the auditing firms engaged by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for the last 14 years. These audits have revealed that these documents are comprehensive in content and that the Sexual Abuse Review Board has implemented the policies in a deliberate and thorough manner. This Archdiocese has had two highly qualified Victim Assistance Coordinators: first Dr. Thomas Robbins, a clinical psychologist, and now Martine Siegel, a clinical nurse specialist in

psychiatry, who have assisted us with this work. Each person’s story that comes before us is taken seriously. There is no way the pain and suffering can be denied. There is no way the anger can be denied that a priest or any Catholic has sexually assaulted a child. There is no way to deny the sadness that yet another priest can no longer carry out priestly duties. Our sessions are emotionally draining, reveal diverse ideas and opinions, and are informed by each member’s professional background. Our concern after 16 years is that we not become complacent and think our work is done. We continue to ask ourselves: ■ What can we do better? ■ Whose voices are we not hearing? ■ What needs to change in the Church? We ask you to pray for us that we will always do the right thing. God’s blessings on all of the people in the Archdiocese of Louisville. Judge John Laun, Chair Dr. Paulette F. Adams, RN Sharon Conway, RN Joanne Delorenza Maamry, RN Dr. Gerald Sturgeon, MD

## Victim Assistance Coordinator Offers Pastoral Response to Abuse Reports

By MARNIE McALLISTER  
Record Editor

When a victim reports child abuse to the Archdiocese of Louisville, Martine Siegel, a clinical nurse specialist in psychiatry, is there to listen. She serves as the Victim Assistance Coordinator for the archdiocese. “My role is to make sure they’re heard and that I take their report well,” she said. “It takes courage for them to come in here and talk to me. You can only imagine having to relive that pain. Many voice it for the first time.” When someone takes that step, she said, “I make sure in a very pastoral way that person gets cared for and gets the help they need.” “I don’t do the counseling, but I’m here if they need to

*Martine Siegel listens to victim survivors and coordinates their care*



Martine Siegel, a clinical nurse specialist in psychiatry, serves as the Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Louisville. for about six years, she has worked with victim survivors of abuse for decades in a medical setting. Siegel also has served as a school counselor and pastoral associate in the archdiocese.

She characterizes child abuse as “horribly devastating.” Most often, she noted, she hears from adults who are reporting past abuse. Recently, she has heard from elderly victims who were abused by priests when they were children — 65 and 70 years ago. As she listens to their stories, she said, “I’m not hearing an elderly person. I’m hearing from an 8-year-old about what was done to them in fourth grade.” There are a lot of reasons people don’t report abuse immediately, Siegel said. “Child sexual abuse is a trauma and trauma causes people to react differently,” she explained. For some victims, there’s

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[www.archlou.org/restoringtrust](http://www.archlou.org/restoringtrust)



### A Prayer for Healing

God of endless love,  
ever caring, ever strong,  
always present, always just:  
You gave your only Son  
to save us by his blood on the cross.  
Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,  
join to your own suffering  
the pain of all who have been hurt  
in body, mind, and spirit  
by those who betrayed  
the trust placed in them.  
Hear the cries of  
our brothers and sisters  
who have been gravely harmed,  
and the cries of those who love them.  
Soothe their restless hearts  
with hope,  
steady their shaken spirits with faith.  
Grant them justice for their  
cause, enlightened by your truth.  
Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,  
heal your people’s wounds  
and transform brokenness  
into wholeness.  
Grant us the courage and wisdom,  
humility and grace,  
to act with justice.  
Breathe wisdom into our  
prayers and labors.  
Grant that all harmed by abuse  
may find peace in justice.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

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# An Explanation of ‘Prayer And Penance’

For priests who have a substantiated accusation of the sexual abuse of a minor, the Holy See applies one of two penalties: dismissal from the clerical state (laicization) or prayer and penance.

The penalty of prayer and penance is applied when the priest is retirement age or beyond and/or suffers from a serious illness.

Priests directed to lead a life of prayer and penance may not celebrate Mass publicly or administer the sacraments. They may not wear clerical dress or present themselves publicly as priests. They are not to have any unsupervised contact with minors.

At this time, the Archdiocese has two priests who are living under this penalty. One lives with a religious community, and the other resides with a family member.

# Steps Taken after the Archdiocese Receives an Accusation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor

Since the development of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* in 2002 (with updates in 2012 and 2017), the Archdiocese of Louisville has sought to respond to sexual abuse victims, promptly report allegations of childhood sexual abuse to the authorities, remove offenders from ministry, and foster a safe environment.

Other stories in this report focus on outreach to victims and fostering a safe environment. This story summarizes the steps that follow when someone reports an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Archdiocese.

The description below applies to diocesan priests, deacons, lay employees, and volunteers. If the offender is a religious priest, deacon, or sister, his or her employment or ministry will end within the Archdiocese of Louisville, and the Archbishop or his delegate will immediately inform his or her competent ecclesiastical superior. In these cases, the religious order investigates and substantiates the accusation.

## When the Archdiocese receives an allegation the following steps are taken:

Sometimes the source of an allegation is the police, and some of these steps may be followed in a different order:

- Inform law enforcement and cooperate fully with any criminal investigation. When a criminal investigation is underway, the Archdiocese defers to this process and does not conduct its own investigation. The Archdiocese notifies the accused of his or her right to retain the assistance of civil and canonical counsel. (The Archdiocese does not pay for civil counsel retained by the accused.) In recent years, the Archdiocese most often hears from adults reporting abuse from their childhood. In these cases, the authorities expect the reports to come directly from the adult who was abused as a child. However, it is the policy of the Archdiocese to inform the police of

## Steps include reporting allegations, responding to victims, removing offenders

these reports and also to encourage and assist victim survivors to make their own reports to the authorities.

- If the accusation involves a priest or deacon, the Archbishop will direct him to take an administrative leave of absence pending the investigation during which he will refrain from all ministries and unsupervised contact with children. If the accusation involves a lay employee or volunteer, the Archdiocese suspends that person from employment or volunteer service, pending investigation.

- The Archdiocese requires the accused to seek a medical and psychological assessment and to authorize the release of diagnostic information related to the accusation to the Archbishop.

- The Archdiocese will conduct its own investigation if a criminal investigation cannot proceed. The Archdiocese will talk with the person making the accusation, review work histories and employment or ministry records, interview any witnesses, and study the results of the psychological evaluation.

- As this process unfolds, the Victim Assistance Coordinator provides support, counseling referrals, and pastoral care to the person making the accusation. As noted above, the Victim Assistance Coordinator will assist the accuser in making a report to the authorities if she or he has not already done so. The Victim Assistance Coordinator also will keep the accuser informed, to the best of her ability, about the progress of the investigation.

## When An Accusation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor is Substantiated:

- Substantiation is determined through several factors, including findings from criminal trials, testimony from victim survivors and other witnesses, admissions, review

of work histories and employment records, data from psychological assessments, and the existence of other victims. Once an investigation is complete, the Review Board examines all of this information and makes a recommendation to the Archbishop as to whether the accusation is substantiated or not.

- If the offender is a diocesan priest or deacon, the Archbishop will exercise his power of governance to insure that any diocesan priest or deacon who has committed even one act of sexual abuse of a minor, now or in the past, will not continue in active ministry.

- When criminal processes involving an accused diocesan priest or deacon are complete, the Archbishop will send a report to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The Holy See will direct the Archbishop how to proceed with the penalty of dismissal from the clerical state (laicization) or the penalty of prayer and penance. The penalty of prayer and penance is sometimes applied when the offending priest is beyond retirement age or is infirm. Priests directed to lead a life of prayer and penance may not celebrate Mass publicly or administer the sacraments. They may not wear clerical dress or present themselves publicly as priests. They are not to have any unsupervised contact with minors.

- If the accusation is substantiated for a lay employee or volunteer, the employment or volunteer service of the accused is permanently terminated. The lay employee or volunteer may not serve in any ministries within a parish or school.

During this process, a communications plan is prepared to inform those in the parish or school in which the accused serves, if applicable, and to notify the broader community through a notice in *The Record*.

*For detailed information about these steps, please see The Sexual Abuse Policies of the Archdiocese of Louisville, [www.archlou.org/restoringtrust](http://www.archlou.org/restoringtrust).*

## RESOURCES

### Church Practices and Teaching:

- *The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States, 1950-2010 A Report Presented to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops by the John Jay College Research Team.* This report is at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). Under Issues and Actions, click on Children and Youth Protection and then Reports and Research located on the left-hand sidebar. Scroll down to “Studies Presented by the John Jay College Research Team.” The direct link is: [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/upload/The-Causes-and-Context-of-Sexual-Abuse-of-Minors-by-Catholic-Priests-in-the-United-States-1950-2010.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/upload/The-Causes-and-Context-of-Sexual-Abuse-of-Minors-by-Catholic-Priests-in-the-United-States-1950-2010.pdf).

- Frequently asked questions are answered at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). Under Issues and Actions, click on Child and Youth Protection. A link to FAQs is located on the left hand sidebar. Direct link: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/faqs.cfm>.

- Teachings on Child Sexual Abuse: “Magisterial Teachings on the Protection of God’s Children.” This publication is at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). Under Issues and Actions, click on Child and Youth Protection. A link to Resources is located on the left hand sidebar. Scroll down to Diocesan Resources on this page. Direct link: [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/resources/upload/magisterial-teachings-child-sexual-abuse.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/resources/upload/magisterial-teachings-child-sexual-abuse.pdf)

- “Question and Answers Regarding the Canonical Process for the Resolution of Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests and Deacons.” This information is at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). Under Issues and Actions, click on Child and Youth Protection. A link to Resources is located on the left hand sidebar. Scroll down to Diocesan Resources. Direct link: [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/resources/upload/USCCB-Office-of-Media-Relations-Questions-and-Answers-Regarding-the-Cano.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/resources/upload/USCCB-Office-of-Media-Relations-Questions-and-Answers-Regarding-the-Cano.pdf).

### Information about Child Sexual Abuse:

- “Ten Points to Create Safe Environments for Children.” Find this article at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). Under Issues and Actions, click on Child and Youth Protection. Look for these Ten Points under Items of Interest on the right-hand sidebar. Direct link: [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/child-abuse-prevention/ten-points-to-create-safe-environments-for-children.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/child-abuse-prevention/ten-points-to-create-safe-environments-for-children.cfm)

- Resources about child sexual abuse are available from the American Psychological Association. Visit [www.apa.org/topics/sexual-abuse/index.aspx](http://www.apa.org/topics/sexual-abuse/index.aspx).

- Darkness to Light, [www.d2l.org](http://www.d2l.org), is a non-profit committed to empowering adults to end child sexual abuse.

- The Federal Bureau of Investigation website offers resources for Internet safety for parents, Kids Page for K-12 students, and child safety tips. For resources and information regarding crimes against children, go to [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov) and under Resources click on Parents. Direct link: <https://www.fbi.gov/resources/parents>.

### For Parents:

- Childhelp’s prevention program “Speak Up Be Safe,” is used in schools in the Archdiocese of Louisville. It works with children, families, and communities to provide long-term education and increased awareness of abuse and neglect. This program teaches children about the many forms of abuse and what to do if they, or anyone they know, are ever involved in an abusive situation. Childhelp provides a full curriculum to schools. To access this information, go to [www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org) and click on Prevention Programs under Our Solution. Direct link: [www.childhelp.org/childhelp-approach/?a=prevention-programs](http://www.childhelp.org/childhelp-approach/?a=prevention-programs)

- KidSmartz is a child safety program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children that educates families about preventing abduction and empowers kids in grades K-5 to practice safer behaviors. This program offers resources to help parents, caregivers, and teachers protect kids by teaching and practicing the 4 Rules of Personal Safety using tips, printable activities, quizzes, articles, music, videos, and more. Visit [www.kidsmartz.org/ParentTips](http://www.kidsmartz.org/ParentTips).

- NetSmartz Workshop is an interactive, educational program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children that provides age-appropriate resources to help teach children how to be safer on- and offline. The program is designed for children ages 5-17, parents and guardians, educators, and law enforcement. With resources such as videos, games, activity cards, and presentations, NetSmartz entertains while it educates. Visit [www.netsmartz.org/Home](http://www.netsmartz.org/Home).

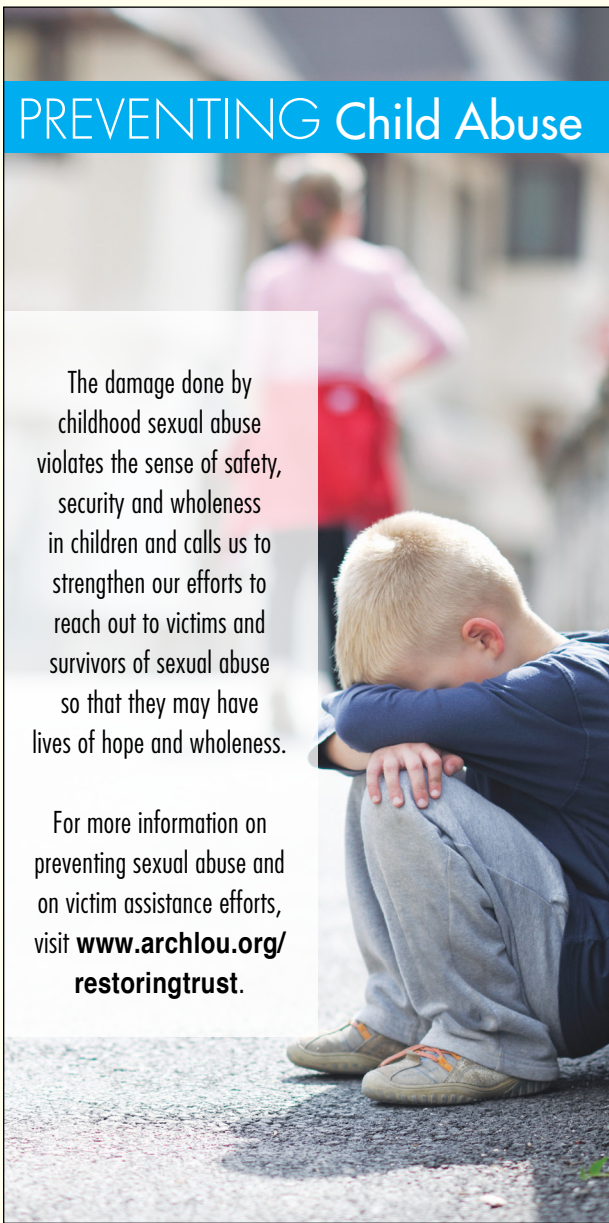
- Safe to Compete is a program of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that provides access to resources to help youth-sports organizations protect child athletes from sexual abuse. Visit [www.safetocompete.org](http://www.safetocompete.org).

- “How to talk to your kids about hard truths” by Laura Kelly Fanucci, who blogs at [motheringspirit.com](http://motheringspirit.com). Read the Sept. 23, 2018, post at <https://motheringspirit.com/2018/09/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-hard-truths>.

- Childmind.org offers ten tips for talking to your children about sexual abuse. Visit <https://childmind.org/article/10-ways-to-teach-your-child-the-skills-to-prevent-sexual-abuse>.

- Find resources and religious education/school curriculum about sexual abuse used in the Archdiocese of Louisville at [www.archlou.org/child-protection-curriculum](http://www.archlou.org/child-protection-curriculum).

- What should you do if your child is a victim of sexual exploitation? Go to [www.missingkids.com/exploitation](http://www.missingkids.com/exploitation).



## PREVENTING Child Abuse

The damage done by childhood sexual abuse violates the sense of safety, security and wholeness in children and calls us to strengthen our efforts to reach out to victims and survivors of sexual abuse so that they may have lives of hope and wholeness.

For more information on preventing sexual abuse and on victim assistance efforts, visit [www.archlou.org/restoringtrust](http://www.archlou.org/restoringtrust).



# Report From the Chancellor: Sexual Abuse in the Archdiocese of Louisville Past to Present

By DR. BRIAN B. REYNOLDS

In the wake of new revelations of past sexual abuse and sexual misconduct in dioceses around the country and in other parts of the world, the past few months have been a difficult time for many Catholics. While child abuse happens in families, in schools, and in sports, it is most difficult to understand or accept why it would happen in the Church by persons who should be among the most trustworthy.

Locally, this has been a time when the partially healed wounds of the past have been reopened. Victim survivors, state authorities, the media, and parishioners are revisiting past actions and asking if the Church has learned from its failings.

I hope the various articles and columns in this supplement will answer some of your questions. In this article, I would like to share a summary of some facts from the history of the Archdiocese of Louisville prior to 2002 and what has occurred in the past 16 years in the Archdiocese.

**Prior to 1980:** Few good records exist from the years prior to 1980. Through individual reports, civil lawsuits, and stories shared by others, we now know of close to 200 cases of the sexual abuse of minors.

When cases of abuse occurred, children often were too frightened to tell their parents or anyone else. We know that child abusers, then and now, intimidate children by making them feel that they are at fault, by threatening them if they tell anyone, and by impressing upon the children that they will not be believed. In cases where reports to Church officials or civil authorities did occur, the incidences of abuse were considered moral failings of the priest, and he was moved to a new assignment. With the eyes of today, we all see how very wrong this approach was.

**The 1980s and 1990s:** Reports of abuse were made during this time, and records indicate that responses to victims and priests continued as in previous years. Twelve settlements were paid to victims in response to claims reported involving a half-dozen priests. These were commonly confidential settlements.

All records of abuse and settlements from this time period were turned over to the Commonwealth Attorney in 2002.

**What occurred in 2002 and 2003?**

**Legal:** In April of 2002, a civil suit was filed in Jefferson County related to abuse that occurred in the 1970s. This widely publicized local case and other cases around the country encouraged other adults to make reports to law enforcement and to the Archdiocese. Many of these individuals also filed civil litigation, which included more than 250 civil suits reporting abuse occurring over a 50-year period.

As noted above, more than three-quarters of these suits involved abuse that occurred before 1980.

By June of 2003, the names of 40 priests, religious, and lay persons were identified. Of this number, 15 were deceased and six were indicted and faced criminal charges. By this time, no priest or lay employee with a known and credible case of abuse remained in ministry.

**‘We must remain vigilant in our work to prevent abuse and protect the most innocent.’**

Dr. Brian B. Reynolds, Chancellor

A five-day mediation began in June of 2003 that resulted in a financial settlement of \$25.7 million with 243 individuals who had pending civil lawsuits against the Archdiocese. Several other settlements were reached before and after this combined group. In total, settlements totaled more than \$26.8 million. These payments represented a significant percentage of available archdiocesan funds.

The Archdiocese entered into mediation because we recognized that these men and women were harmed by the actions of those who worked for the Church, and they deserved compensation in support of their healing.

**Church Policies:** Beginning in June of 2002, the Archdiocese adopted robust new policies to deal with accusations of child abuse against someone representing the Church. This followed the 2002 adoption of the *Charter for Protection of Children and Young People* by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It shaped newly developed policies and procedures that remain in place today. This report describes the major components of the *Charter*, and our archdiocesan web page provides further details. See [www.archlou.org/restoringtrust](http://www.archlou.org/restoringtrust).

**Since 2002, the Archdiocese of Louisville has consistently followed these policies:**

- A) All cases of abuse are reported to civil authorities if the accused is still living.
- B) The Archdiocese regularly consults with a Sexual Abuse Review Board, made up of a majority of lay experts, who are charged with reviewing all reports of abuse.
- C) No priest or deacon who has committed an act of sexual abuse against a minor may remain in active ministry, and all such cases must be reported to the Holy See. Employees or volunteers who sexually abuse children also are permanently terminated from any ministry within the Church.
- D) The Archdiocese provides the services of a qualified Victim Assistance Coordinator who serves as the first responder for victims. She meets with victims, assists them in making reports to authorities, and reaches out with assistance in the form of counseling for the victim or members of his or her family. The Victim Assistance Coordinator also coordinates a meeting with Archbishop Kurtz, if the victim survivor desires such a meeting.
- E) A Safe Environment Coordinator on staff organizes the required safe environment training and criminal background checks for all employees and for those volunteers who have regular contact

- with children or youth.
- F) A safe environment curriculum is utilized by all elementary and secondary schools, and resources are provided to parishes.
- G) All employees and volunteers who work with children are held accountable to a published “Code of Conduct.”
- H) In a variety of platforms, the Archdiocese publishes information about how to report accusations of sexual abuse to the authorities.
- I) No settlements of abuse claims may require confidentiality clauses.
- J) The Archdiocese must submit to an annual audit of its implementation of the *Charter*.

**Since 2003:** In the 15 years since the implementation of the *Charter*, the Archdiocese has undergone annual audits, which have found the Archdiocese to be fully compliant with all elements of the *Charter*. All reports of abuse are brought to the Archdiocese of Louisville Sexual Abuse Review Board, and all cases of abuse are reported to law enforcement if the accused is still living. During these years, three priests have been convicted on criminal charges, two relating to abuse which occurred prior to 1986 and one other related to child pornography in 2015. Adults continue to come forward and meet with the Victim Assistance Coordinator to report experiences of childhood abuse. Often, we learn that these new victim survivors were abused by a previously identified priest, and occasionally we hear a report about the actions of a long deceased priest. Counseling support and assistance with making a report to civil authorities are offered to all victims. Victims also are offered, if they desire, a personal meeting with Archbishop Kurtz.

More than 48,000 persons have completed safe environment training, and the Archdiocese has spent more than \$1 million on prevention and education initiatives for adults and children. Beyond support paid through legal settlements, more than \$230,000 of counseling support has been provided to victim survivors.

**In 2018:** Recent events have raised issues of trust, accountability, moral leadership, power, and clericalism. Despite all of the efforts of the Church to address sexual abuse, it is clear that more needs to be done.

- We must remain vigilant in our work to prevent abuse and protect the most innocent.
- In the coming months the Archdiocese will provide new support opportunities for victim survivors. We invite their input and counsel as we work towards healing and reconciliation.
- We plan to seek a third-party review of our records, policies, and procedures from experts in law enforcement to guide our efforts in improving record-keeping and reporting.
- And finally, we will increase our fervor and commitment to be a Church centered on Jesus Christ. Let us all pray for one another.

## Safe Environment Policies and Programs Aim to Prevent Abuse

*Policies call for background checks, safe environment training and code of conduct*

By MARNIE McALLISTER  
Record Editor

In the last 15 years, 48,000 people have been trained by the Archdiocese of Louisville to spot child abuse and learned that they’re required by Kentucky law to report their suspicions. They’ve also been background checked and have promised to adhere to a detailed code of conduct.

These are steps the Archdiocese of Louisville has taken to help safeguard the children in its care since 2003.

Since these policies were established, all priests, deacons and church employees, as well as volunteers who work on a regular basis with children have been subject to these requirements.

They are scrutinized every five years via Selection.com, which conducts a background check covering national, state and county records. And every quarter, their identities are checked against America Reports, a national database that includes the sex offender registry and the no-fly list.



Record Photo by Marnie McAllister

Holy Trinity School counselor Laura Probus and St. Xavier High School counselor Jim Higgins taught the Archdiocese of Louisville’s safe environment training program Oct. 15 at Nativity Academy. The program is mandatory for all priests, deacons and employees of the archdiocese and volunteers who work on a regular basis with children.

The archdiocese’s two-hour Safe Environment Training Program, called “Honor Thy Children,” is offered several times each month for new employees, clergy and volunteers.

The program has three main points, said Martine Siegel, who teaches the program and coordinates assistance for victims of abuse in the archdiocese.

1. “We teach people how to recognize abuse,” she said. “We want

everybody to watch for signs that a child is being abused.”

2. “We want them to understand what childhood sexual abuse is — how a child deals with being sexually abused mentally and how an adult deals with it if they were abused as a child.”

3. The class also teaches “How to report it, when to report it and what the state of Kentucky requires, so there’s no misunderstanding.”

See **SAFE**, Page B4

## Reporting Child Abuse

Kentucky state law (KRS 620.030) requires that “any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is dependent, neglected, or abused shall immediately make an oral or written report to the local law enforcement agency, or the Department of Kentucky state police; the cabinet or its designated representative; the Commonwealth’s attorney or the county attorney; by telephone or otherwise.”

This reporting requirement involves all adults, including priests, religious, employees, and volunteers. The only exception to this reporting requirement is information learned within the Sacrament of Reconciliation or within an attorney-client relationship.

If you are uncertain about whether you are dealing with abuse, please call the authorities and talk over what has come to your attention. Trained staff will help you to sort out the information, such as whether a specific incident must be reported and to whom. The important principle is that all suspected abuse must be reported.

The Archdiocese most often hears from adults about abuse they suffered during their childhood by a representative of the Church. In these cases, the authorities expect the reports to come directly from the adult who was abused as a child. However, it is the policy of the Archdiocese to inform the police of these reports if the accused is still living and also to encourage and assist victim survivors to make their own reports to the authorities.

The statewide child abuse hotline is 1-877-597-2331 (1-877-KYSAFE1). Additional reporting phone numbers by county are listed at [www.archlou.org/restoringtrust](http://www.archlou.org/restoringtrust).



# Frequently Asked Questions

These questions and answers will be updated as needed and stored on the web at [www.archlou.org/restoringtrust](http://www.archlou.org/restoringtrust).

**Q. What do the archdiocesan sexual abuse policies include?**

**A.** The archdiocesan sexual abuse policies contain the following major components related to the sexual abuse of a minor by clergy or other representatives of the Church:

- Mandated and prompt reporting to civil authorities and support for victims in pursuing criminal prosecution.
- A qualified Victim Assistance Coordinator, who takes complaints of sexual abuse of minors involving Church priests, deacons, employees, or volunteers and assists victims.
- Prompt investigation and permanent removal from ministry of offenders for substantiated accusations of sexual abuse of a minor.
- Safe environment programs for all employees and those volunteers that have regular contact with children or youth. To date more than 48,700 clergy, employees, and volunteers have been trained, and the Archdiocese has invested more than \$1 million in these efforts. In addition, a safe environment curriculum is provided to children in all Catholic elementary and secondary schools, and resources are provided to parishes.
- National and state criminal background checks (clergy, employees, and volunteers who have substantial contact with children).
- A “Code of Conduct” to which clergy, employees, and volunteers who work with children are held accountable.
- The existence of a Sexual Abuse Review Board, which includes lay experts (including a victim survivor) whose members advise and monitor compliance and advise the Archbishop regarding allegations of sexual abuse of a minor against priests or deacons in ministry.

**Q. What must be reported?**

**A.** According to the Archdiocese of Louisville Sexual Abuse Policies and the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, any suspected child abuse, neglect, or assault must be reported immediately to civil authorities and to archdiocesan officials if the abuse involves a member of the clergy or Church employee or volunteer. In cases when adults come forward about sexual abuse they suffered during their childhood by a representative of the Church, the authorities expect the reports to come directly from the adults who were abused as children. However, it is the policy of the Archdiocese to inform the police of these reports if the person being accused is still living and also to encourage and assist victim survivors to make their own reports to the authorities. If requested, the Victim Assistance Coordinator (Ms. Martine Siegel) will assist victim survivors in making a report to civil authorities. See reporting information on page three.

**Q. Are any priests in ministry against whom there is a credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor?**

**A.** No priest against whom there is a credible allegation may be in ministry. He may not work or volunteer for the Archdiocese or its parishes, schools, or other facilities or programs. He may not celebrate Mass publicly, administer the sacraments, wear clerical garb, or present himself publicly as a priest.

**Q. What should I do if I have not reported abuse I suffered?**

**A.** Those who have experienced abuse involving a representative of the Church are encouraged to report this abuse, first to the police if the offender is still living, and then to the archdiocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator. Please see page three of this report for reporting contacts. Martine Siegel, the victim assistance coordinator, can be reached at 502-636-1044 or at [victimassistance@archlou.org](mailto:victimassistance@archlou.org).

**Q. What happens to priests, deacons, or other Church representatives against whom there are credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor?**

**A.** When an accusation is received, a priest, deacon, lay employee or volunteer is removed from ministry pending investigation. If the allegation is deemed credible, the offender is permanently removed. All allegations are reported to the authorities. The archdiocesan Sexual Abuse Review Board, a group of lay experts, priests, and lay staff, prepares a final recommendation for Archbishop Kurtz about the substantiation of any claim against a living priest or deacon.

**Q. Does the Archdiocese engage in confidentiality agreement with victims?**

**A.** Since 2002, the Archdiocese has not required any victim survivor to sign a confidentiality agreement.

**Q. Are all priests laicized who have a substantiated accusation of sexual abuse of a minor removed from the clerical state? If not, why not?**

**A.** Any priest or deacon against whom there is a credible allegation of sexual abuse of minors is removed from ministry. Many are laicized, which is an extra step beyond removal from ministry. Through laicization, the Holy See formally removes a priest or deacon from the clerical state.

In some situations, the Holy See may direct a priest to lead a life of prayer and penance. This most often happens when the priest is at retirement age and/or in poor health, and the Church can place him in a monitored or supervised environment.

**Q. Are priests with a credible accusation of sexual abuse of a minor paid by the Archdiocese?**

**A.** Once an investigation is complete, and an accusation is substantiated, the priest no longer receives a salary. If the priest has not yet reached retirement age, he may receive some limited support for living expenses. After the priest reaches the retirement age of 70, the only compensation he may receive is the pension earned for years of service, which includes a Medicare supplement plan. This pension belongs to the priest or former priest, and he is legally entitled to claim it.

**Q. How are victims supported?**

**A.** Over the years, the Archdiocese has offered a variety of support opportunities based upon the stated needs of victim survivors. The primary means of support is counseling services for the victim and/or members of his or her family. The

Archdiocese offers all victims this assistance along with a meeting with Archbishop Kurtz if they desire to meet with him.

**Q. How does the Church handle accusations against a bishop regarding sexual abuse of a minor, sexual misconduct or harassment of adults, or negligence in handling abuse in his diocese?**

**A.** This month, Pope Francis initiated an investigation into how accusations of sexual misconduct and harassment involving Archbishop Theodore McCarrick were handled by the Holy See. He also announced that a Synod of Bishops will be held in February of 2019 to deal with the sexual abuse of minors.

In September, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, announced that the following steps have been taken by the U.S. Bishops:

1. Approved the establishment of a third-party reporting system that will receive confidentially, by phone and online, complaints of sexual abuse of minors by a bishop and sexual harassment of or sexual misconduct with adults by a bishop and will direct those complaints to the appropriate ecclesiastical authority and, as required by applicable law, to civil authorities.
2. Instructed the USCCB Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance to develop proposals for policies addressing restrictions on bishops who were removed or resigned because of allegations of sexual abuse of minors or sexual harassment of or misconduct with adults, including seminarians and priests.
3. Initiated the process of developing a Code of Conduct for bishops regarding the sexual abuse of a minor; sexual harassment of or sexual misconduct with an adult; or negligence in the exercise of his office related to such cases.
4. Supported a full investigation into the situation surrounding Archbishop McCarrick, including his alleged assaults on minors, priests, and seminarians, as well as any responses made to those allegations. Such an investigation should rely upon lay experts in relevant fields, such as law enforcement and social services.

Cardinal DiNardo reported that consultation with lay experts, parents, clergy, and religious is ongoing and will likely result in further actions.

**Q. How are potential priests screened?**

**A.** Every candidate for seminary goes through a battery of screening requirements including criminal background checks, a psychological examination, a credit history report, a health examination, and numerous reviews of references, transcripts and sacramental records, as well as multiple interviews. If accepted, the candidate must then apply to the seminary, where a screening committee reviews all the same material.

These are standard screening procedures nationwide. In addition, United States seminaries require that a man complete an average of six years of study, during which he is constantly evaluated to ensure fitness for ministry before ordination.

## The Archdiocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator Offers a Pastoral Response

**‘We can’t take the abuse away, but hopefully we can take some of their pain away by offering them support and love.’**

Martine Siegel, Victim Assistance Coordinator

*Continued from Page B1*

a very real fear they won’t be believed. Some abusers also threaten the life of a family member or a beloved pet, she said.

“People suppress memories to be able to function,” she said. Then, something triggers that memory.

Most recently, people have been triggered by the Pennsylvania grand jury report that described 70 years of sexual abuse committed by clergy in six dioceses. The report, published in August, brought past abuse back to the surface for many people, Siegel said.

“This Pennsylvania (report) has opened up a lot of wounds,” she said. “The abuser is gone, but the pain isn’t.”

When someone courageously steps forward, she said, “They need to know we care, and I hope I convey that.”

“It is never easy to listen to someone’s story of abuse. When my heart stops breaking, I’m done,” she said. “Everyone’s story is brand new to me, and their pain is palpable. They need to know we care. That the archdiocese cares.”

“So many have told me the weight of the world is off their shoulders when they walk out the door,” she said. “We can’t take the abuse away, but hopefully we can take some of their pain away by offering them support and love.”

## Safe Environment Training for Children Aims To Erase Taboo

*Continued from Page B2*

standing,” Siegel said. “We are a mandatory reporting state.”

To report suspicions of child abuse, call 1-877-KYSAFE1 (which is 1-877-597-2331).

“By the time they leave the two-hour class, they know what to look for, what it does to a child or adult and how to report it,” Siegel said.

“They’re also given my name and number. We want them to know they are fully supported by the archdiocese. They can call me anytime. They can run a situation by me about what to do.”

Siegel noted that some people arrive at the class feeling frustrated that they have to attend.

“They never fail to leave, saying, ‘I came in thinking it was a waste of time; what I learned was phenomenal.’

Siegel said participants often speak to her afterward about their own experience of abuse as children.

“So many have said, ‘This happened to me. That was me you were talking about,’

*Children are taught how to recognize grooming and to feel comfortable reporting abuse*

Siegel said, noting that’s one reason the archdiocese continues to offer a live training program rather than a pre-recorded class. “So many have come up and cried and told their stories and asked, ‘Who can I see?’ They get a person they can talk to.”

The training classes are taught by Siegel and two school counselors, Laura Probus of Holy Trinity School and Jim Higgins of St. Xavier High School. It’s typically offered several times a month and reaches locations all over the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Continuing education for safe environment practices is offered in a monthly newsletter, which is sent to all principals, counselors, pastors and parish staff, who are expected

to share it, Siegel said.

Training isn’t only offered to adults. It’s also provided to children in Catholic schools. Those in kindergarten through sixth grade take “Speak Up Be Safe,” a program offered by Childhelp.

Children in seventh and eighth grade can also take this program or may be offered another appropriate program, Siegel said.

Speak Up Be Safe focuses on four things:

1. What the “grooming” process looks like.
2. Body safety and privacy.
3. Uncomfortable touch.
4. How to report.

“The purpose is to give them knowledge and a voice,” said Siegel. “We want them to be comfortable with this topic, so comfortable that they can say, ‘This isn’t right.’ For the ones who have gone through this program, it’s not a taboo topic.”

She added that high schools choose their own curriculum. Religious education programs in parishes offer a program called Safe Sheep.