

# *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* **COMMUNICATING THE CHARTER**

Here are suggestions for a “Charter Awareness” program during October/November, 2003. Research indicates that many Catholics are not very familiar with what the Bishops accomplished with the approval of the Charter. With the compliance audit underway to determine the extent to which dioceses are fulfilling the standards of the Charter, it is worthwhile to acquaint Catholics with what implementing the Charter entails.

**This material emphasizes the four main sections of the Charter which sum up its goals:**

- ✦ To Promote the Healing and Reconciliation with Victims/Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse of Minors
- ✦ To Guarantee an Effective Response to Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors
- ✦ To Ensure the Accountability of Our Procedures
- ✦ To Protect the Faithful in the Future

Last August 14, the Media Relations Office informed the communications directors that the office was using the private web site [www.usccbcharter.org](http://www.usccbcharter.org)—which has been advertised only to diocesan personnel—to distribute Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) files that contain summaries of the main points of each section of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People,” along with a quotes from the Bishops’ expression of sorrow and apology in the Preamble and the pledges they make in the conclusion.

**These files can be used:**

- ✦ together to create a pamphlet for parish and diocesan distribution;
- ✦ used individually as flyers, parish bulletin inserts, or handouts for discussion groups;
- ✦ published in the diocesan newspaper;
- ✦ converted to slides for audio-visual presentations.

**This additional *COMMUNICATING THE CHARTER* package adds the following:**

## **SAMPLE DIOCESAN NEWSPAPER INSERT/BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The purpose of these newspaper inserts/bulletin announcements is to call attention to the fact of the compliance audit and the elements of the Charter over a series of weeks during October/November.*

## **HEARING FROM THE PULPIT**

*This material is for possible use to draw attention to the Charter from the pulpit. There are talking points, and a text on which can be based a pulpit announcement or remarks in the homily. The pulpit/homily materials contain a reference to the scene if this occasion is used. There are also petitions for use throughout October/November.*

## **CHARTER DISCUSSION GUIDE**

*These are outlines for a single-session or multiple-session discussions of the Charter. You will be receiving a DVD with a 5:23 video message in which Bishop Gregory gives viewers an overview of the Charter. This video is designed to introduce these discussions. (Also contained on the DVD is a 8:02 reflection by Bishop Gregory on the bishops response to the child sexual abuse problem.)*

I hope that this material will supplement what you are already doing.

Msgr. Frank Maniscalco