2013 Annual Report

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SECRETARIAT OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

NATIONAL REVIEW BOARD

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

MARCH 2014

2013 Annual Report
Findings and Recommendations

March 2014


United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, DC

Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection
National Review Board

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
The 2013 Annual Report on the Implementation of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” was prepared by the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection for the National Review Board and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). It was reviewed by the USCCB President, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, and has been authorized for publication by the undersigned.

Msgr. Ronny E. Jenkins, JCD
General Secretary, USCCB

The findings and recommendations in this 2013 Annual Report on the Implementation of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” are based on the information provided by the dioceses and eparchies.

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Preface

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

May God bless you! I am pleased to present this eleventh annual report on the progress of implementing the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. I extend a sincere thank you to those countless, dedicated persons who work tirelessly to create safe environments in our parishes and schools.

The healing of victims/survivors of abuse remains our first priority. We join Pope Francis in his desire that the response of the Church be pastoral and immediate. This year’s report reflects our pledge to address the sexual abuse of minors through comprehensive efforts to reach out to victims with care and compassion, a commitment to report all abuse to the authorities, accountability for those who have committed acts of abuse, and strong efforts in education and prevention.

This report is part of a pledge we have made to remain accountable and vigilant. Behind the data contained in the report are men and women, adults and children, in need of our prayers and support. As we continue to create a climate of safety for all minors entrusted to the Church’s pastoral care, our three-fold pledge guides us: to help victims heal; to educate about and prevent abuse; and to hold accountable those who have harmed children. These remain essential priorities for our Church.

In the past ten years, innumerable hours have been put into these efforts, not only by bishops and their staff but also by pastors, parents, parish and school volunteers, Catholic school teachers, and principals. Much work has been done to keep children in the care of the Church safe, but we must not think the work is finished. The diocesan efforts for outreach and healing continue to demonstrate the honest endeavors of fulfilling the bishops’ promise to protect and pledge to heal.

Finally, this report clearly shows we must remain ever vigilant in the protection of children. Though our promise to protect and heal made in 2002 remains strong, we must not become complacent with what has been accomplished. It is my hope and prayer that as we continue to fulfill our promise, the Church will help to model ways of addressing and bringing to light the darkness and evil of abuse wherever it exists.
March 1, 2014

Archbishop Joseph Kurtz
President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the National Review Board and its Audit Committee, and in conjunction with the Secretariat for the Protection of Children and Young People, I am pleased to provide you with the Annual Report detailing the results of the eleventh compliance audit. The audit remains the single most important tool to ensure the seriousness with which the bishops take the Charter and its implementation. Compliance with the articles of the Charter manifests to the faithful the commitment of the bishops to the protection of children and young people in our parishes, schools, and church-related agencies. It is through this instrument of accountability that trust can be restored between the faithful and the bishops, an important step in regaining their moral authority.

In order to strengthen the audit, the NRB strongly believes that parish audits need to be included in the on-site audit of dioceses. We know that it is in the parish that most abuse cases in the past occurred. In order to demonstrate that the Charter is being implemented fully and that safe environments have indeed been created, it is important to include parish audits. This year there was a 44 percent increase in the number of dioceses that included parish audits. This is a positive development that we hope other dioceses will emulate in future audits.

It is important to note that the overwhelming majority of the bishops in our country continue to comply and cooperate with this important audit process. Unfortunately, one diocese and three eparchies did not participate in this year’s audit. Based on that refusal, they are all found not to be in compliance with the Charter.

They are:

- Diocese of Lincoln
- Chaldean Eparchy of Saint Peter the Apostle of San Diego
- Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg in New York for Armenian Catholics
- Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford

The NRB was pleased to learn that two eparchies that previously refused to participate with the audit in the past did so this year. Total participation in the audit is one of the few ways to demonstrate to the faithful the commitment of the bishops to right the horrific wrongs done in the past and to do all that they can to prevent such abuse from happening again. We continue to work toward the goal of 100 percent participation. This is a matter of utmost importance in the protection of our children and the restoration of the bishops’ credibility.
Allow me to call your attention to some of the recommendations and best practices highlighted in this report. While not impacting compliance with the Charter, these suggestions, based on practices observed by the auditors in various dioceses, are meant to help the bishops assume a level of leadership on the issue of sexual abuse that will benefit society at large, since we know that this is a problem not limited to the Church.

Recognizing that sexual abuse of children and young people may never be completely eradicated, it is important for the Church, despite the positive progress that has been made in the last decade, to remain ever vigilant and not become complacent so as to make such cases rare. As the audit moves into the second decade, the NRB will continue to work collaboratively with the bishops on strengthening the audit so as to achieve this goal.

Thank you for your own commitment to the Charter and to the protection of our children, who are the future of the Church. I am equally grateful for the support and faith you show this process and the NRB and its efforts to advise you and your brother bishops on this important issue. With this partnership, I am confident we can help the process of restoring trust and creating safe environments.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francesco C. Cesareo

Francesco C. Cesareo, PhD
Chairman
March 1, 2014

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, DD
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dr. Francesco Cesareo
Chairman, National Review Board

Your Excellency and Dr. Cesareo,

This Annual Report marks the eleventh anniversary of the audits and the Annual Report itself. This resource has given our bishops professional and independent verification and documentation of their diocesan and eparchial efforts towards compliance as it relates to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. This report also highlights successes and failures, additional actions that go beyond the requirements of the Charter, and the shortcomings that continue to detract from the efforts of the majority of dioceses and eparchies. Chapter One is a progress report on the successes and recommendations.

The energy, motivation, and ongoing commitment in keeping the Promise to Protect; Pledge to Heal is demonstrated by ongoing diocesan/eparchial outreach to survivor/victims, developing relationships with families and community organizations, and the priority of caring for our victim/survivors. Together, it is our efforts that will contribute to making this journey toward healing and reconciliation possible. There is hope.

Sincerely in Christ,

Deacon Bernie Nojadera
Executive Director
Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection
March 1, 2014

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dr. Francesco Cesareo, Ph.D., Chair
National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People

Archbishop Kurtz and Dr. Cesareo,

As the 2013 audit period concluded, it marked the completion of a full three-year audit cycle involving StoneBridge Business Partners. Over the past three years, we have visited 188 dioceses and eparchies, including 64 this past year. We have conducted our audits in accordance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and have had the benefit of working in cooperation with the Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection (SCYP) to continually refine the audit program.

In an on-going effort to produce more efficient and effective audits, we hosted two April webinar/workshops in Washington, DC to educate safe environment coordinators and other diocesan/eparchial representatives on our audit process and approach. In June, StoneBridge staff attended a refresher training seminar presented in conjunction with the SCYP at StoneBridge’s Rochester, New York headquarters.

It is our pleasure to continue serving the USCCB, as we embark upon another audit cycle. We support the efforts by committee members to revise and clarify ambiguities that exist within the current Charter. In 2002, the Bishops of the United States made a historic step by creating the Charter. Agreeing to be audited by an independent party was part of that commitment. Rest assured that StoneBridge recognizes and respects the importance and responsibility of this role.

The fine work that diocesan/eparchial personnel around the country are doing to create and maintain safe environments for children is commendable. The education and awareness they provide to this worthy cause benefits everyone. Without their dedication and efforts, our job would be that much more difficult.

The annual report that follows compiles the information we gathered during our audits and our related findings.

James I. Marasco, Director
StoneBridge Business Partners
March 1, 2014

Most Reverend Joseph Kurtz, President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dr. Francesco Cesareo, Chair
National Review Board

Dear Archbishop Kurtz and Dr. Cesareo,

In November 2004, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to design and conduct an annual survey of all dioceses and eparchies whose bishops and eparchs are members of the USCCB. The purpose of this survey is to collect information on new allegations of sexual abuse of minors and the clergy against whom these allegations were made. The survey also gathers information on the amount of money dioceses and eparchies have expended as a result of allegations as well as the amount they have paid for child protection efforts. The national level aggregate results from this survey for each calendar year are reported in the *Annual Report of the Implementation of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.”*

The questionnaire for the 2013 *Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs* was designed by CARA in consultation with the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and was only slightly different from the versions used for the 2004 through 2012 *Annual Surveys.* As in previous years, CARA prepared an online version of the survey and provided bishops and eparchs with information about the process for completing it for their diocese or eparchy. In collaboration with the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, major superiors of clerical and mixed religious institutes were also invited to complete a similar survey for their congregations, provinces, or monasteries.

Data collection for 2013 took place between December 2013 and February 2014. CARA received responses from 194 of the 195 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB and 155 of the 215 clerical and mixed religious institutes of CMSM, for response rates of 99 percent and 72 percent, respectively. CARA then prepared the national level summary tables and graphs of the findings for 2013, with comparisons to 2004 through 2012, which are presented in this *Annual Report.*

We are grateful for the cooperation of the bishops, eparchs, and major superiors and their representatives in completing the survey for 2013.

Sincerely,

Fr. Thomas P. Gaunt, SJ
Executive Director

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Section I
Pope Francis, in the book The Simple Wisdom of Pope Francis: Hold on to Hope, Volume 1, describes the living reality of our Baptism as “expressed in attitudes, behavior, gestures, and decisions” (8). Clearly, our bishops have expressed such attitudes, behavior, gestures, and decisions while addressing and preventing the sexual abuse of children by clergy. The Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal is being carried out on the local level and the opportunity to continue this dialogue promotes ongoing awareness and has led to transparency and accountability. In the course of the past ten years, the work of outreach to victims, providing and maintaining safe environment training and programs, along with the ongoing practice of conducting background checks on clergy, employees, and volunteers who are ministering to our young people, are actions that express how we live out our Baptism.

The annual diocesan/eparchial audits for the compliance of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People continue to provide the Church with a view of how it protects children in the United States.

During the 2013 Audit, StoneBridge Business Partners carried out on-site visits with sixty-four dioceses/eparchies and collected data from 127 dioceses/eparchies. Participation is not yet 100 percent, but there continues to be a steady movement of cultural change in our dioceses, parishes, and schools. This transformation is creating an educated and knowledgeable Church regarding the issues of child abuse and child sexual abuse. It is also creating a proactive and reliable culture. A reliable culture in relation to dealing with the reality of child sexual abuse is one in which clergy, employees, and volunteers actively and deliberately create and maintain a safe environment for our children. It is one that lives out the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in all ways.

**GESTURES AND DECISIONS**

Our audit shows that progress is continually being made and good work is being done. But there are still problems with maintaining accurate databases documenting the number of clergy in a diocese or the number of volunteers and employees who have had a background evaluation and have been trained. Without such databases it becomes difficult to know who has the required training and background checks. The Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection (SCYP) is concerned that after ten years, there are still questions or uncertainties, a lack of confidence on the local level regarding certain issues. We have dealt with diocesan concerns around the issues of boundary violations, letters of suitability, and how often diocesan/eparchial review boards should meet. The audit found diocesan policies that do not include the revised June 2011 additions to the Charter.

The audits also demonstrate the unique and creative ways that bishops have engaged and empowered chancery and diocesan staff and personnel. This can clearly be seen in the “Additional Actions,” an audit document that allows dioceses/eparchies to highlight actions taken during the audit period that are above and beyond what the articles of the Charter require. Dioceses submitted examples of excellent working, collaborative relationships with local, state, and national organizations, opportunities for community involvement and educational awareness on the issues of child sexual abuse.
through poster and essay contests, and provided training workshops on topics of internet safety, elder abuse, and bullying—just to name a few. These additional endeavors continue to evolve and develop in complexity and sophistication. Additionally, Safe Environment Coordinators are being used as community resources and experts in the field of child abuse/child sexual abuse.

Safe Environment programs are in place for all dioceses/eparchies audited. However, we see gaps in outdated and insufficient materials, unacceptable means of disseminating information to those who are to be trained, especially children, and inaccurate or no documentation on who received safe environment training. There are dioceses that rely upon the public school system to provide safe environment training without checking the materials used or the frequency of training. The audit points out that a number of bishops have not given their approval of safe environment programs being used by their dioceses.

Dioceses offer a wide range of protocol or procedures for conducting background evaluations. They range from a single, one time background check to checks that take place on an annual basis. Again, we see all dioceses have a procedure in place but some uncertainties as to who get checked and how often are still evident.

The audit does give the faithful confidence in the Mandatory Reporting Processes and Procedures of dioceses/eparchies, as all were found compliant in this area.

**ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOR**

Dioceses/eparchies display appropriate and effective relationships between the bishop, clergy, staff, and the faithful. The audit verifies that dioceses and eparchies are living out their knowledge of child abuse issues. These dioceses/eparchies display confidence; they clearly are trained and they know what to do when an allegation arises. When asked by the auditors, the front line staff, reception, administration, clergy, and employees were all able to share with certainty their diocesan procedures. Exemplary dioceses carry out a seamless cohesion among the offices with an emphasized priority on providing excellent, quality service to anyone who calls the diocese. Regardless of what office is contacted, there is a confident and reassuring individual on the other end of the phone who is able to accurately connect the caller to the appropriate office and responsible individual. The motivation behind such practice is that there may be only one chance to connect with this person, who may be a survivor/victim, a family member, or friend. Such first impressions help set the attitude and tone of the diocese. This becomes even more impressive when the same actions are duplicated on the parish level.

Such actions are not happenstance. Dioceses train and practice what to do when allegations are received. Training takes place throughout the diocese as part of its Safe Environment Program. The expectations are clearly laid out and everyone knows their role in handling allegations. There is a working, collaborative relationship with law enforcement or the District Attorney’s office. Therapeutic providers are vetted based on their expertise and the validity of their license to practice. Resources are made available for individuals who are more comfortable speaking in their native tongue. Because of such training, dioceses have received reports from concerned parishioners and potential acts of abuse have been thwarted.

But there are also outliers; there are those few dioceses/eparchies that have made some errors and were found non-compliant. After eleven years there should be no question as to what the Charter requires. If there are questions or concerns, they need to be brought up for discussion and resolution prior to the audits. Dioceses need to rely on each other and on the SCYP, in finding the answers to questions and in seeking out appropriate resources. Hopefully too, we will see the day when we have 100 percent participation in the audit. Until then, we continue doing our best.

**HOLD ON TO HOPE**

(Pope Francis)

May the power of Christ’s Resurrection reach every person—especially those who are suffering—and all the situations most in need of trust and hope (“Instruments of Christ’s Grace,” Hold On to Hope). The Charter along with the annual audits may be seen as such instruments of Christ’s grace.

The Sacrament of Baptism is but one sacrament of the three Sacraments of Initiation. Perhaps our journey of initiation is slowly approaching that time where we are able to confidently and individually confirm the reasons for carrying out our safety programs and background checks, not because we are being forced to, but because we believe that such actions show who we are. Our eucharistic communion is realized when we are able to proclaim in thanksgiving, that all children are indeed safe in our Church and that we are, with the grace of God, doing everything within our being to carry out that Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal.

There is indeed Hope.
OBJECTIVE

This Audit Report summarizes the results of the 2013 Charter audits for inclusion in the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection’s Annual Report, in accordance with Article 9 of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Article 9 states, “The Secretariat is to produce an annual public report on the progress made in implementing and maintaining the standards in this Charter. The report is to be based on an annual audit process whose method, scope, and cost are to be approved by the Administrative Committee on the recommendation of the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. This public report is to include the names of those dioceses/eparchies which the audit shows are not in compliance with the provisions and expectations of the Charter.”

Also included in this Audit Report are certain facts and figures from both the 2011 and 2012 Charter audits, in order to present a complete account of Charter compliance efforts across the United States during the 2011–2013 audit cycle.

BACKGROUND

The completion of the 2013 Charter audits marks the conclusion of one full audit cycle, during which StoneBridge Business Partners visited 188 of the 195 Catholic dioceses and eparchies in the United States. StoneBridge was selected by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People and the National Review Board in 2010 to perform the 2011–2013 cycle of audits. StoneBridge is a specialty consulting firm that was established in Rochester, New York, during the mid-nineties from a base of certified public accountants. StoneBridge provides forensic, internal, and compliance auditing services to leading organizations nationwide. The audit programs utilized in our substantive auditing process are tailored to the specific objectives of each engagement. For the USCCB, StoneBridge worked with the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection (SCYP) to develop a comprehensive audit program, revise the documents used to collect data, and train StoneBridge staff and diocesan/eparchial personnel on the content and requirements for the Charter audits. More information on the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, the SCYP, and the National Review Board is presented in the Audit Findings & Recommendations section of this report under Articles 8, 9, and 10, respectively.

SCOPE

During 2013, StoneBridge visited sixty-four dioceses and eparchies, and collected data from 127 others. One diocese and three eparchies refused to participate in either type of audit, and cannot be considered compliant with the Charter. Of the sixty-four dioceses/eparchies that received on-site audits during 2013, three eparchies and three dioceses were found not compliant, but only with respect to certain Articles of the Charter. Results of the audits are discussed by Article in the Audit Findings & Recommendations section of this report.

Compliance with the Charter was determined based on implementation efforts during the period from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. Our examinations included Articles 1 through 7, and 12 through 17. Articles 8, 9, 10, and 11 are not subject to audit, but general information on each Article has been included in this report.
DEFINITIONS

Selected terms used throughout this report are defined below:

• “Bishop” refers to the head of any diocese or eparchy, which includes bishops, eparchs, and apostolic administrators.

• “Minor” includes children and youth under age eighteen, and any individual over the age of eighteen who habitually lacks the use of reason.

• “Survivor” refers to any victim of sexual abuse while he or she was a minor, as defined above.

METHODOLOGY

Whether participating in an on-site audit or a data collection audit, each diocese and eparchy must complete two documents: Chart A/B and Chart C/D. Both Charts were developed by StoneBridge and the SCYP, and are used to collect compliance data from each diocese for inclusion in this report. During a data collection audit, StoneBridge reviews the Charts for completeness, and forwards the Charts to the SCYP as proof of participation. This year, dioceses and eparchies were required to submit their Charts by September 3, 2013. StoneBridge granted extensions to 49 dioceses and eparchies, all of which submitted their information by the end of the calendar year.

Chart A/B summarizes allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric as reported to a specific diocese during the audit year. Chart A/B contains information such as the number of allegations, the nature of the allegations, the outcome of any investigations, and the status of the accused cleric as of the end of the audit period. Chart A/B also reports the number of abuse survivors and/or family members served by outreach during the audit period. Information from Chart A/B is used to compile statistics related to Charter Articles 1, 2, 4, and 5.

Chart C/D summarizes the compliance statistics related to Articles 12 and 13, such as:

• total children enrolled in Catholic schools and parish religious education programs

• total clergy, candidates for ordination, employees, and volunteers ministering in the diocese or eparchy

• total number of individuals in each category that have received safe environment training or background evaluations, if applicable

• programs used for training each category

• agencies used for background evaluations

• frequency of background evaluations

Statistics from Charts A/B and C/D are presented by Article in the Audit Findings & Recommendations section of this report.

In addition to Chart A/B and Chart C/D, on-site audit participants are required to complete the Audit Instrument, which allows a diocese or eparchy to explain its specific compliance activities related to each Article of the Charter. During the audit, StoneBridge verifies Audit Instrument responses through interviews with diocesan/eparchial personnel, and review of supporting documentation.

As a supplement to the Audit Instrument, dioceses and eparchies participating in on-site audits were provided with a Source Document Request Letter prior to their audit. This letter, offered by Article, examples of supporting documentation that the auditors may want to review on-site as evidence of compliance. The purpose of the letter was to assist diocesan/eparchial personnel with preparing for the audit and to maximize the efficiency of the auditors while on-site. In most cases, dioceses and eparchies were fully prepared for the audit, and the necessary documentation was assembled in binders or folders by Article for ease of reference.

StoneBridge auditors employ various interview techniques during the performance of these audits. Our interview style tends to be more relaxed and conversational, versus interrogative. Our intent is to learn about an interviewee’s role(s) at the diocese or eparchy, specifically as those roles relate to Charter implementation. In addition, we may interview survivors of abuse and accused clerics if any are willing. Our auditors interviewed two victims and two accused clerics in 2013. The objective of these interviews is to ensure that both survivors and the accused are being treated in accordance with guidelines established in the Charter.

Parish audits are an optional but nonetheless important part of our audit methodology. During parish audits, StoneBridge auditors, often accompanied by diocesan/eparchial personnel, visit diocesan/eparchial parishes and schools to assess the effectiveness of the Charter implementation program. StoneBridge staff may review database records and physical files maintained at the parish or school to determine whether employees and volunteers are appropriately trained and background checked. We interview parish/school personnel and visually inspect posted information on how or where to
report an allegation of abuse, such as victim/survivor assistance posters in their vestibules, or contact information in weekly bulletins. For dioceses and eparchies that do not self-audit, parish audits are helpful in pointing out areas of parish-level Charter implementation that could be improved. Parish audits are strongly encouraged, as they are usually indicative of the strength of a diocese or eparchy's Charter implementation program.

This year, StoneBridge visited ninety-one parishes/schools in twenty-six dioceses (noted below), which marked a 44 percent increase in participation from last year.

• Alexandria, Louisiana
• Altoona-Johnstown, Pennsylvania
• Cleveland, Ohio
• Columbus, Ohio
• Erie, Pennsylvania
• Fall River, Massachusetts
• Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana
• Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
• Jackson, Mississippi
• Kansas City-St. Joseph, Missouri
• Lafayette, Indiana
• Lexington, Kentucky
• Miami, Florida
• Milwaukee, Wisconsin
• Oakland, California
• Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida
• Portland, Maine
• Portland, Oregon
• Rapid City, South Dakota
• St. Cloud, Minnesota
• St. Louis, Missouri
• Stockton, California
• Tyler, Texas
• Washington, DC

Dioceses and eparchies participating in either an on-site or a data collection audit have the option to complete an Additional Actions for the Protection of Children form to describe certain activities during the audit period which the diocese/eparchy believes went above and beyond the requirements of the Charter. Information collected from each diocese and eparchy is included on the Additional Actions Compilation, which is published annually on the SCYP website.

At the completion of each on-site audit, two letters are prepared by the auditors. The first letter is called the Compliance Letter. This letter communicates to bishops and eparchs whether their dioceses/eparchies were found to be in compliance with the Charter. The Compliance Letter is brief and states that the determination of compliance was “based upon our inquiry, observation and the review of specifically requested documentation furnished to StoneBridge Business Partners during the course of our audit.” The second letter, called the Management Letter, communicates to the bishop or eparch any suggestions that the auditors wish to make based on their findings during the on-site audit. These suggestions, as the Management Letter states, “do not affect compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People; they are simply suggestions for consideration.” Examples of Management Letter comments are provided by Article in the Audit Findings & Recommendations section of this report.

At the completion of each data collection audit, a bishop or eparch will receive one letter, which is prepared by StoneBridge. The letter will state whether or not a diocese or eparchy is “in compliance with the data collection requirements for the 2012/2013 Charter audit period.” Receipt of this letter does not imply that a diocese or eparchy is compliant with the Charter. Compliance with the Charter can only be effectively determined by participation in an on-site audit.

A list of all the dioceses and eparchies that received on-site audits during 2013 can be found in Appendix I of this audit report.

SCOPE LIMITATIONS

A scope limitation, for purposes of this report, is a circumstance that may negatively impact our ability to perform a thorough audit. During the 2011–2013 audit cycle, we identified four major scope limitations to the performance of our audits:
I. Hesitation and/or unwillingness to participate in parish audits.

In 2013, as in 2011 and 2012, most dioceses and all eparchies opted not to have StoneBridge conduct parish audits. Some dioceses countered that they perform their own audits and elected to opt out of having StoneBridge also audit them. Parishes and schools represent the front lines in any diocese’s or eparchy’s Charter compliance efforts. If a diocese or eparchy does not conduct some form of audit of its parishes and schools—whether by diocesan/eparchial representative or external auditor such as StoneBridge—the bishop or eparch cannot be sure that Charter-related policies and procedures are clearly communicated and effectively carried out. At the chancery or pastoral center, our auditors may review certain Charter implementation policies, and observe related back office procedures, but without observing the same procedures at the parish/school level, we are unable to verify that parishes and schools are complying with the Charter.

II. Inconsistent methods of collecting and reporting compliance statistics.

Each year during the audit cycle, we attempted to further clarify the instructions for compiling safe environment training and/or background check statistics to be reported on Chart C/D. Some dioceses and eparchies have developed practically seamless methods for requesting and collecting the necessary data to support whether their clergy, employees, and volunteers working with children are appropriately trained and background checked. Other dioceses and eparchies continue to struggle with outdated information, lack of cooperation at the parish/school level, and inefficient processes for information gathering. As a result, the auditors are furnished incomplete or inaccurate data which affects the reliability of the information presented in this report.

III. Turnover of personnel charged with Charter implementation.

Another issue related to Charter compliance at the parish/school level is the frequency of turnover in key positions, such as in the director of religious education or principal roles. Even at the chancery/pastoral center, turnover of human resources personnel, a safe environment coordinator, or even a bishop may affect the implementation of a Charter compliance program during a given year. Simultaneous changes in personnel at both levels could lead to a complete breakdown in the process. In 2013 for example, a principal and another key individual at a high school in one diocese both stepped down during the year. At the same time, the individual responsible for overseeing safe environment training at the diocese left her position. No one at the school was charged with interim responsibility for ensuring the safe environment training was being provided to students, and no one at the diocese followed up with the school to ensure the training was being provided. As a result, none of the children at that high school were provided the diocese’s safe environment training program during the 2012–2013 school year.

IV. Failure to participate in the audit process.

Of course, the greatest scope limitation to this engagement, whether the audit is performed on-site or via data collection, is failure to participate. In 2013, four locations refused to participate in the data collection process, so no information on these locations could be included in this report.

- Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska
- Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle for Chaldeans
- Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg for Armenians
- Eparch of Stamford for Ukrainians

We were pleased to work with two new audit participants this year, the Eparchy of Newton for Melkites and the Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark for Syrians, and we applaud their bishops and staff for their ongoing Charter implementation efforts.

AUDIT FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Article 1

The dioceses and eparchies visited this year consistently upheld all aspects of Article 1, which is concerned with the outreach and support of victims/survivors of sexual abuse of minors by clergy. Between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013, 857 survivors of child sexual abuse by clergy came forward in 191 Catholic dioceses and eparchies with 936 allegations. These allegations represent reports
of abuse between a specific victim and a specific alleged accuser, whether the abuse was a single incident or a series of incidents over a period of time. The abuse attributable to these allegations was purported to have occurred from the 1920s to the present.

For purposes of this audit, the investigation of an allegation has four potential outcomes. An allegation is substantiated when enough evidence exists to prove that abuse occurred. An allegation is unsubstantiated when enough evidence exists to prove that abuse did not occur. An allegation is unable to be proven when there is not enough evidence to determine whether or not abuse occurred. This is generally the outcome of an investigation when the accused cleric is deceased. Finally, since the information collected was as of June 30, 2013, some allegations were still under investigation. We categorized these allegations as “Investigation ongoing.” In other cases, an investigation had not yet begun for various reasons. We categorized these allegations as "Other.” Chart 1-1 below summarizes the status of the 936 allegations as of June 30, 2013.

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**Chart 1-1: Status of Allegations as of June 30, 2013**

- **Substantiated**: 136
- **Unsubstantiated**: 78
- **Investigation ongoing**: 472
- **Unable to be proven**: 223
- **Other**: 27

---

A total of 343 allegations were brought to the attention of diocesan/eparchial representatives by survivors themselves, making self-disclosure the principal reporting method during the audit period. A close second was the total allegations brought by attorneys on behalf of survivors, which was 307. The remaining 286 reports were made by spouses, relatives, or representatives of other organizations, such as other dioceses, eparchies, religious orders, and law enforcement officials, who brought the allegations to the attention of the proper diocese/eparchy on behalf of the survivor.

When a diocese has declared bankruptcy, specific information on allegations may not be available to the auditors, which affects the statistics presented in this report. Some bankruptcy cases result from the reopening of statutes of limitation which allow past victims to file claims against a diocese or eparchy. In these cases, claims come to the diocese through attorneys, and information withheld by the attorneys includes the identity of the victim, and the identity of the cleric accused. As a result, the diocese is unable to determine whether the allegations were already reported in previous audits.

Since 2002, dioceses that have filed for bankruptcy protection include:
- Diocese of Davenport, Iowa
- Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska
- Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico
- Diocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon
- Diocese of San Diego, California
- Diocese of Spokane, Washington
- Diocese of Tucson, Arizona
- Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware

This year, the Diocese of Spokane received 118 allegations from 88 victims via its bankruptcy proceeding. The diocese is unaware of the identities of the victims or the accused, and is unable to determine whether the allegations have been reported before. Therefore, it is important to note that the 936 allegations brought to the attention of dioceses and eparchies during the audit period may not represent new claims.

When a survivor comes forward him or herself, or with the assistance of a friend or relative, dioceses and eparchies are able to freely communicate with the survivor about available support services and assistance programs. When a survivor comes forward through an attorney, as in a bankruptcy claim, or the diocese/eparchy is made aware of an allegation as part of an ongoing investigation by law enforcement, dioceses and eparchies may be prevented from providing outreach directly to the survivor. In some cases, however, we found that dioceses and eparchies have attempted to fulfill their Charter obligation under Article 1 by communicating information about available support services and assistance programs to the agents of the survivors. Dioceses and eparchies provided outreach and support to 340 new survivors and their family members during the audit period. Continued support was given to 1,843 past survivors and family members. This demonstrates the sincere commitment...
the bishops have made to foster reconciliation with the survivors of child sexual abuse as set forth in Article 1.

Article 2

Article 2 has multiple compliance components related to a diocese/eparchy’s response to allegations of sexual abuse of minors. First, Article 2 requires that policies and procedures exist for prompt response to allegations of sexual abuse of minors. All dioceses and eparchies visited in 2013 have written procedures for responding to allegations of sexual abuse of minors, though we found that “prompt” was inconsistently defined. Some policies require action within 24–48 hours, while others state that response should be “immediate.” In some cases, we noted that policies and procedures did not provide a claimant with any expectations for response time. We suggested via our Management Letters that these dioceses consider revising their policies and procedures to clearly define this Charter requirement.

Second, Article 2 requires procedures for making a complaint to be available in all principal languages of the diocese or eparchy, and be the subject of annual public announcement. Dioceses and eparchies complied with this component by publishing versions of policies and procedures in multiple languages on their website. The existence of these procedures is typically made known to the public by an announcement in the diocesan/eparchial paper or newsletter, and some form of publication at the parish level. We noted as a result of our parish audits that some parish websites do not contain allegation reporting information. Some parishes had never printed this information in their bulletins, and others did not display reporting information in public areas. Comments in twenty of our Management Letters addressed these issues.

The third component of compliance with Article 2 is the appointment of a Victim Assistance Coordinator (VAC). All dioceses and eparchies visited appear to have a competent individual in place to respond to allegations of sexual abuse of minors, whether this individual is full-time, part-time, or hired on a contractual basis. Our determination of compliance was primarily based on interviews with the individuals in the VAC role, and by review of their resumes if provided.

The fourth and final component of Article 2 concerns the review board. The Charter requires every diocese and eparchy to have an independent review board to advise the bishop on allegations of sexual abuse of minors, including the suitability of an accused cleric for ministry. In addition, the review board is charged with regularly reviewing policies and procedures for responding to allegations. A diocese or eparchy’s compliance with this component of Article 2 was determined by interviews with review board members, and the review of redacted review board meeting minutes and agendas from meetings which took place during the audit period. We found that while all dioceses and eparchies visited have a review board in place, the frequency with which each review board meets varies. The following dioceses and eparchies were found not compliant with Article 2 because at the time of our audit, their bishops had not convened their review board in several years. This indicated that the review boards had not “regularly” reviewed policies and procedures for responding to allegations.

- The Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn
- The St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago
- The Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia
- The Diocese of Alexandria
- The Diocese of Lexington

These bishops have since committed to convene their review boards during the 2013–2014 audit period and a few have already fulfilled this promise.

Between 2011 and 2013, a total of seven dioceses/eparchies were found not compliant with Article 2 for failure to convene the review board. In each instance, the reason for such complacency was attributed to a lack of allegations. The Charter’s requirement for review boards to regularly review policies and procedures was completely overlooked. We reminded six other bishops of this requirement in their Management Letters because although their review boards were somewhat active, policies and procedures for responding to allegations were outdated. To assist diocesan/eparchial review boards with compliance with Article 2 in this area, we have included a list of potential discussion topics under “Other Recommendations” in this section.

Article 3

The dioceses and eparchies visited this year consistently upheld all aspects of Article 3, which prohibits dioceses and eparchies from requesting confidentiality as part of their settlements with survivors. Confidentiality is only allowed if requested by the survivor, and must be noted so in the text of the agreement. As evidence of
Article 4

All dioceses and eparchies visited this year complied with Article 4, which is concerned with compliance with civil laws as they pertain to allegations of child sexual abuse. Compliance with Article 4 was determined by review of related policies and procedures, letters to local authorities regarding new allegations, and interviews with diocesan/eparchial personnel responsible for making the reports. In some instances, auditors reached out to the applicable public authorities and confirmed diocesan cooperation.

Of the allegations of child sexual abuse by clergy reported during the audit period, forty-three allegedly involved current minors. Three allegations made by a former employee of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia were later admitted to be false. Eighteen of the forty remaining claimants were male, and twenty-two were female. All cases were reported to the local civil authorities as required by the Charter and statutory mandated reporter laws. Chart 4-1 below illustrates the status of each of the 40 claims made by minors as of June 30, 2013.

Of the seven substantiated allegations made by current minors, two were against clerics who had already been laicized. Two were against the same cleric who, upon notification of the allegation, requested laicization. One allegation resulted in the suicide of the accused cleric, and the two other allegations caused the prompt removal of the accused clerics from ministry. Only one of these allegations involved an international priest, who was from Mexico.

Chart 4-2 compares the relationship of substantiated claims by minors to total claims by minors for each year in the 2011–2013 audit cycle.

The Charter was updated in 2011 to include in the definition of “minor” any adult individual who “habitually lacks the use of reason.” While we did not collect specific data on allegations made by these individuals, we attempted to locate specific language regarding this matter in relevant diocesan and eparchial policies. We recommended to twelve bishops that they revise existing child protection policies to make sure that allegations of sexual abuse of adults who habitually lack the use of reason are handled in the same manner as allegations of sexual abuse of children.

Article 5

Article 5 of the Charter has two components: removal of credibly accused clerics in accordance with canon law, and the fair treatment of all clerics against whom allegations have been made, whether the allegations are deemed credible or not. Compliance with Article 5 is determined by review of policies and procedures, review of relevant documentation (such as decrees of dismissal from the clerical state, decrees mandating a life of prayer and penance, prohibitions concerning the exercise of public ministry, where applicable), and interviews with diocesan/eparchial personnel.

In one instance, we encountered a scope limitation preventing us from determining a compliance position because in our opinion, certain information about the removal of credibly accused clerics was in question. The inability to review this information at the time of the review created a scope limitation for this particular audit, and we were unable to determine whether clerics’ cases were handled in accordance with the Charter. All other dioceses and eparchies visited were found compliant with Article 5.

We noted that in four dioceses, while the bishop and his staff had a process for handling the removal of clerics, the process was not documented. We recommended
that these bishops and their staff put any Charter-related policies and procedures into writing. Written policies and procedures are an important resource in any organization, especially dioceses and eparchies where, as noted in the Scope Limitations section of this report, turnover of personnel is common.

The total number of clerics accused of sexual abuse of a minor during the audit period was 730. When collecting data for this report, we categorized accused clerics as priests, deacons, unknown, or other. By “unknown” is meant that the victim/survivor was unable to provide the identity of the accused. “Other” represents a cleric from another diocese for which details of ordination and/or incardination were not provided. Accused priests numbered 538, of which 382 were diocesan priests, 110 belonged to a religious order, 46 were incardinated elsewhere. There were eleven deacons accused during the period, of which ten were incardinated in a specific diocese, and one was a religious. Allegations brought against unknown clerics numbered 175, and six other clerics were accused. Two hundred thirty-two of the identified clerics had been accused in previous audit periods. During the audit period, ten clerics were removed from ministry because of allegations of possession of child pornography. These ten clerics are included in the statistics presented. The status of the 730 accused clerics as of June 30, 2013 is illustrated by Chart 5-1 below.

**Chart 5-1: Status of Accused Clerics as of June 30, 2013**

- Deceased
- Laicized
- Removed from ministry
- Referred to religious order
- Resigned
- Active ministry
- Other (e.g. retired)
- Unknown

Article 6 is determined by review of a diocese/eparchy’s Code of Conduct and policies and procedures, and by interviews with diocesan/eparchial personnel.

In addition to updating the definition of “minor,” the 2011 Charter revision updated the Church’s definition of “sexual abuse” to include “the acquisition, possession, or distribution by a cleric of child pornography.” We attempted to verify that Codes of Conduct used in dioceses and eparchies specifically prohibited child pornography, and that relevant Charter policies and procedures included child pornography in the definition of sexual abuse. We offered comments to thirty bishops of this specific revision because their Codes of Conduct and/or policy documents did not yet include the updated Charter language.

**Article 7**

Article 7 is concerned with the communication of information about allegations of sexual abuse of minors by clergy to the public, especially affected parishes. The Charter does not address the timeliness of such communications, so for purposes of the audit, a diocese or eparchy is considered compliant if the bishop can demonstrate that at the very least, a cleric’s removal was formally announced to the affected parish community. We reminded two bishops of this requirement in our Management Letters, and both bishops immediately made the appropriate announcements. All dioceses and eparchies audited this year were considered compliant with Article 7.

**Article 8**

Article 8 is not subject to audit because it outlines the responsibilities of the USCCB’s Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. Membership of the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People (CPCYP) from July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, included the following bishops shown with the regions they represented and consultants:
Chapter Two: Audit Report 2013

November 2011–November 2012

Bishop R. Daniel Conlon, Chair  
*Term expires in 2014*

Bishop Peter Uglietto  
*Term expires November 2014*

Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan (II)  
*Term expired November 2013*

Bishop Timothy Senior (III)  
*Term expired November 2013*

Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski (IV)  
*Term expired November 2013*

Bishop Richard Stika (V)  
*Term expired November 2013*

Bishop Bernard A. Hebda (VI)  
*Term expired November 2013*

Bishop Edward K. Braxton (VII)  
*Term expires November 2015*

Bishop John M. LeVoir (VIII)  
*Term expires November 2015*

Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. (IX)  
*Term expires November 2014*

Bishop Oscar Cantú STD (X)  
*Term expires November 2014*

Bishop Clarence Silva (XI)  
*Term expired November 2013*

Bishop Edward J. Burns (XII)  
*Term expires November 2014*

Bishop James S. Wall (XIII)  
*Term expires November 2014*

Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito  
*Term expires November 2014*

Bishop Gerald N. Dino (XV)  
*Term expired November 2012*

**Consultants**

Rev. Msgr. Brian Bransfield  
*Associate General Secretary*  
USCCB

Rev. Msgr. Stephen Rossetti  
Fr. Tom Smolich SJ  
*President*  
Conference of Major Superiors of Men

November 2012–November 2013

Bishop R. Daniel Conlon, Chair  
*Term expires in 2014*

Bishop Peter Uglietto  
*Term expires November 2014*

Bishop Terry R. LaValley (II)  
*Term expires November 2016*

Bishop Mark Bartchak (III)  
*Term expires November 2016*

Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski (IV)  
*Term expires November 2016*

Bishop William F. Medley (V)  
*Term expires November 2016*

Bishop Joseph R. Binzer (VI)  
*Term expires November 2015*

Bishop Edward K. Braxton (VII)  
*Term expires November 2015*

Bishop John M. LeVoir (VIII)  
*Term expires November 2015*

Bishop James V. Johnston Jr.(IX)  
*Term expires November 2014*

Bishop Patrick J. Zurek (X)  
*Term expires November 2016*

Bishop Thomas A. Daly (XI)  
*Term expires November 2016*

Bishop Edward J. Burns (XII)  
*Term expires November 2014*

Bishop Eduardo A. Nevares (XIII)  
*Term expires November 2017*

Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito (XIV)  
*Term expires November 2014*

Bishop Thomas Mar Eusebius (XV)  
*Term expires November 2015*
The CPCYP meets during the months of March, June, September, and November. At two of those meetings, June and November, the CPCYP meets jointly with the National Review Board (NRB). The CPCYP continued to work with StoneBridge Business Partners and the National Review Board to strengthen the audit process through source documentation.

Bishop R. Daniel Conlon with Mr. Al Notzon III, Chair of the National Review Board, Deacon Bernie Nojadera, executive director of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, and Ms. Mary Jane Doerr, associate director of the SCYP, attended the fourteenth Anglophone Conference in Rome, Italy, in June, 2013. The episcopal conferences of the United States and Sri Lanka hosted the conference with the theme: Youth Protection Going Global.

The CPCYP has been asked to assist all bishops and eparches, especially those appointed since the Charter was adopted in 2002, and revised in 2005 and 2011, to understand the obligations required of them by the Charter. In response, the CPCYP prepared a program designed to address questions new bishops and eparches may have regarding the Charter or the annual compliance audits. This Orientation was held during the bishops’ General Meeting in November of 2011 and has become an annual event since it is critical to share with the new bishops not only the genesis of the wording of the Charter but also the spirit behind the commitments made in the Charter.

**Article 9**

Article 9 is not subject to audit because it outlines the responsibilities of the USCCB’s Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection. The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* specifically created the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection (SCYP) and assigned to it three central tasks:

- To assist each diocese and eparchy (the Eastern Catholic equivalent of a diocese) in implementing Safe Environment programs designed to ensure necessary safety and security for all children as they participate in church and religious activities
- To develop an appropriate compliance audit mechanism to assist the bishops and eparchs in adhering to the responsibilities set forth in the Charter
- To prepare a public, annual report describing the compliance of each diocese/eparchy with the Charter’s provisions

Taking into account the financial and other resources, as well as the population and demographics of the diocese/eparchy, the SCYP is a resource for dioceses/eparchies for implementing safe environment programs and for suggesting training and development of diocesan personnel responsible for child and youth protection programs.
The SCYP works closely with StoneBridge auditors to ensure an appropriate audit mechanism to determine the compliance of the responsibilities set forth in the Charter was in place. The instrument used in the 2013 audit asked for access to source documents allowing the auditors to give unqualified findings. The majority of the audit instrument remained unchanged from past audit instruments.

The SCYP’s support of the dioceses includes sponsoring web based communities to assist the missions of Victim Assistance Coordinators, Safe Environment Coordinators, and Diocesan Review Boards; preparing resource materials extracted from the audits; creating materials to assist in both healing and Charter compliance; and providing resources for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. In keeping with the conference emphasis on collaboration, during the month of October, SCYP also focuses on the sanctity and dignity of human life as it joins with Office of Pro Life Activities in offering prayers and reflections.

The issue of child abuse/child sexual abuse is most certainly a life issue in the full spectrum of protecting life from birth to natural death.

When invited, the SCYP staff will visit dioceses/eparchies and offer assistance. On a limited basis and as needed, the staff of the SCYP provides support to and referral of victims/survivors to resources that can aid them in their healing. Staff participates in a variety of collaboration with other child serving organizations. The second annual web accessible Charter Implementation Training was held September 26, 2013. Certificates of attendance were distributed to 140 attendees.

Archbishop Wilton Gregory spoke on the roots of the Charter and T. Pitt Green spoke on her path of healing as a survivor of clergy sexual abuse. Other topics included the Effective Use of Diocesan Review Boards, Priestly Formation, Pastoral Care of Survivors, and Transparency and Accountability.

The SCYP provides staff support for the CPCYP, the NRB, and its committees. The SCYP provides monthly reports to the members of the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People (CPCYP) and the National Review Board (NRB). These reports reflect the administrative efforts of the SCYP within the USCCB, the external support by the SCYP to the (arch)dioceses/eparchies on Charter-related matters, and the work of the CPCYP and NRB as supported and facilitated by the SCYP.

During the audit period, the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection (SCYP) consisted of the following four staff members: Executive Director Deacon Bernie Nojadera, Associate Director Mary Jane Doerr, Executive Assistant Laura Garner, and Staff Assistant Drew Dillingham.

Deacon Bernie Nojadera, Executive Director, served as Director of the Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults with the Diocese of San Jose, California, from 2002-2011. He was a pastoral associate at St. Mary Parish, Gilroy, California (1987-2002). He was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Joseph College, Mountain View, California, in 1984; a Master of Social Work degree specializing in health and mental health services from San Jose State University in 1991; and a Master of Arts in theology from St. Patrick’s Seminary and University, Menlo Park, California, in 2002. Mr. Nojadera was ordained a permanent deacon in 2008. He has been a member of the Diocese of San Jose Safe Environment Task Force, involved with the San Jose Police Department’s Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the County of Santa Clara Interfaith Clergy Task Force on the Prevention of Elder Abuse, and the County of Santa Clara Task Force on Suicide Prevention. He has worked as a clinical social worker for Santa Clara County Mental Health (1991–2000) and is a military veteran. He is married and has two children.

Mary Jane Doerr, Associate Director, holds a Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral Sciences from Nazareth College, Kalamazoo, and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University. She has more than 20 years’ experience as an educator in the following roles: as a classroom teacher, an elementary school principal, and a college instructor. She joined the Diocese of Kalamazoo in 1994 where she worked in stewardship and development. In 2003 she was appointed the Safe Environment Coordinator for the diocese and in 2006 was promoted to the Director of the Safe Environment Office. This role included Victim Assistance coordination and overseeing all compliance issues related to the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. She assumed the role of associate director in the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection in July 2008. She is the mother of two adult children.

Laura Garner, Executive Assistant, joined the staff of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection on January 3, 2011. Previously, Ms. Garner served as a Staff Assistant in the Office of the General Counsel with the USCCB since 2008. Ms. Garner holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Loyola College and a Master of
Article 10

Article 10 is not subject to audit because it outlines the responsibilities of the USCCB’s National Review Board. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops established the National Review Board during their meeting in June of 2002. The functions of the Board were revised slightly and reconfirmed in June of 2005 when the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People was revised. The purpose of the National Review Board is to collaborate with the USCCB in preventing the sexual abuse of minors by persons in the service of the Church in the United States.

The membership of the National Review Board during the audit period was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term Expiry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Michael J. Clark</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Antoine Garibaldi</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Charles Handel</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge Anna Moran</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Al Notzon III</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Stephen A. Zappala Jr.</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Angelo Giardino</td>
<td>June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Susan King</td>
<td>June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Coleen Kelly Mast</td>
<td>June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Kathleen Asdorian</td>
<td>June 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Francesco Cesareo</td>
<td>June 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Michael Montelongo</td>
<td>June 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Michael de Arellano</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Fernando Ortiz</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Laura Rogers</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Scott Wasserman</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The chair is appointed by the USCCB President from persons nominated by the NRB. In January 2011, Cardinal George named Mr. Al Notzon to be chair for a two-year term expiring in June 2013. The other officers are elected by the Board, and committee chairs are appointed by the NRB chair. In January of 2013, USCCB President, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, appointed Dr. Francesco Cesareo to be chair for a two year term expiring in June 2015. The NRB secretary is Ms. Kathleen Asdorian.

The four NRB committees are as follows:

- The Audit Committee, chaired by Mr. Stephen Zappala, continued its work of keeping the audit process updated and effective.
- The Research and Trends Committee, chaired by Dr. Angelo Giardino, moved forward in developing ways to measure the effectiveness of safe environment training for children and adults by enlisting the input of safe environment coordinators across the country.
- The Communications Committee, chaired by Mrs. Coleen Mast is developing ways to assist dioceses/eparchies in getting out to the faithful the progress the church has made in combating child sexual abuse.
- The Nominations Committee chaired by Ms. Kathleen Asdorian, elicited nominations of potential NRB candidates for terms beginning in 2014. Those members whose term began in June 2013 are Dr. Michael de Arellano, Dr. Fernando Ortiz, Ms. Laura Rogers, and Mr. Scott Wasserman. Their terms expire in June 2017.

Additional information concerning the NRB can be found at: [http://www.usccb.org/about/child-and-youth-protection/the-national-review-board.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/about/child-and-youth-protection/the-national-review-board.cfm)

Article 11

Article 11 is not subject to audit because it requires the president of the USCCB to inform the Holy See of the Charter, and share with the Holy See each annual report on its implementation. On June 3, 2013, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, then president of the USCCB, submitted a copy of the 2012 Annual Report to the Apostolic Nuncio. Archbishop Joseph Kurtz has succeeded Cardinal Dolan as president of the USCCB and will submit the 2013 Annual Report to the Apostolic Nuncio in accordance with Article 11.
Article 12

Article 12 of the Charter calls for the education of children and those who minister to children about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people. For a diocese or eparchy to be considered compliant with Article 12, the bishop and his staff must be able to demonstrate that training programs exist, the bishop approves the programs, and the appropriate individuals have participated in the training. During our audits, we review training program materials, letters of promulgation regarding the programs, and a database or other recordkeeping method by which a diocese/eparchy tracks whether individuals have been trained or not. One diocese and one eparchy were found not compliant with Article 12 as of the end of the audit period. All other dioceses and eparchies visited were deemed compliant with this Article.

The Diocese of Pueblo was found not compliant with Article 12 because diocesan staff could not produce evidence to show that all clergy had been trained. The Diocese of Pueblo uses an online training program that contains a database for tracking participants. When compared to the diocesan directory of active clergy, reports from the database showed that only a small percent of priests and deacons had taken the training as required by the Charter. The Diocese of Pueblo has been sede vacante since Pope Francis accepted Bishop Emeritus Fernando Isern’s resignation in June 2013. Following the audit, representatives from the Secretariat of Child & Youth Protection have been in contact with diocesan staff to assist with Charter implementation in the absence of a bishop.

The St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago was found not compliant because of the high percentage of children and volunteers who had not completed safe environment training. The eparchy relies heavily on site coordinators at each parish to cooperate with the local Latin diocese for the training of children and adults, but does not require those coordinators to report on who has been trained. Therefore, no documentation was available to prove whether all appropriate individuals have been trained, and as a result, we could not find the eparchy compliant with Article 12.

Another common issue with Charter compliance documentation continues to be the lack of a formal promulgation letter signed by the sitting bishop. Thirteen dioceses visited this year were unable to produce a promulgation letter as evidence of a bishop’s approval of the training programs. We noted this fact in each diocese’s Management Letter. We also included a reminder for those dioceses awaiting a bishop that the new bishop should be sure to review the existing training programs and formally express his approval via promulgation letter.

The implementation of Article 12 in general continues to be a challenge for dioceses and eparchies. As we noted in the 2012 audit report, inefficient or poorly managed database systems have failed to keep accurate training numbers, and even if accurate numbers are available, some parishes still fail to submit their information timely. We noted six dioceses that should reassess the effectiveness of their databases, and their Management Letters addressed this issue.

We compiled the 2013 safe environment training data below, divided by category from the 191 dioceses and eparchies that participated in either the on-site or data collection audits. Data from prior years is presented for comparison purposes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dioceses/eparchies participating</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total children</td>
<td>4,910,240</td>
<td>4,993,243</td>
<td>5,143,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total children trained</td>
<td>4,645,700</td>
<td>4,684,192</td>
<td>4,847,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent trained</td>
<td>94.6%</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
<td>94.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent opted out</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent opted out represents those children whose parents or guardians elected not to allow them to participate in a training session for various reasons. Parents and guardians are not required to explain their position to the diocese or eparchy. However, materials are sent home and the parents are still expected to introduce the lessons to their children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priests</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total priests</td>
<td>36,131</td>
<td>38,199</td>
<td>38,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total priests trained</td>
<td>35,914</td>
<td>38,006</td>
<td>38,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent trained</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
<td>99.5%</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deacons</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total deacons</td>
<td>16,245</td>
<td>15,796</td>
<td>15,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total deacons trained</td>
<td>16,129</td>
<td>15,680</td>
<td>15,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent trained</td>
<td>99.3%</td>
<td>99.3%</td>
<td>99.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidates for Ordination</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total candidates</td>
<td>6,458</td>
<td>6,372</td>
<td>6,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total candidates trained</td>
<td>6,360</td>
<td>6,232</td>
<td>6,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent trained</td>
<td>98.5%</td>
<td>97.8%</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educators</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total educators</td>
<td>168,782</td>
<td>168,067</td>
<td>159,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total educators trained</td>
<td>167,953</td>
<td>166,311</td>
<td>158,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent trained</td>
<td>99.5%</td>
<td>99.0%</td>
<td>99.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Employees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total employees</td>
<td>257,222</td>
<td>258,380</td>
<td>249,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total employees trained</td>
<td>251,146</td>
<td>249,918</td>
<td>240,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent trained</td>
<td>97.6%</td>
<td>96.7%</td>
<td>96.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Volunteers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total volunteers</td>
<td>1,936,983</td>
<td>1,920,001</td>
<td>1,850,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total volunteers trained</td>
<td>1,902,143</td>
<td>1,876,558</td>
<td>1,781,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent trained</td>
<td>98.2%</td>
<td>97.7%</td>
<td>96.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is important to note that these figures represent individuals who have been trained at least once. The Charter does not require clergy, employees, and volunteers to renew safe environment training, but some dioceses and eparchies choose to require some form of refresher. Dioceses and eparchies should be reevaluating their training programs and/or offering refresher training to keep up with societal changes. A complete list of safe environment training programs used in dioceses and eparchies throughout the United States is posted on the SCYP website.

Article 13

Article 13 of the Charter requires dioceses and eparchies to evaluate the background of clergy, candidates for ordination, educators, employees, and volunteers who minister to children and young people. Background checks are typically a matter of course in organizations across the United States. As a result, the implementation of Article 13 generally poses less of a challenge to dioceses and eparchies than the implementation of Article 12. One eparchy, St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago, was found not compliant with Article 13 because of the high percentage of priests and volunteers who had not received background checks. As with safe environment training, the eparchy relies heavily on site coordinators at each parish to ensure background checks are performed, but the coordinators are not required to report to the eparchy who has been checked. As a result, no documentation was available to prove whether all appropriate individuals have been background checked, and as a result, we could not find the eparchy compliant with Article 13.

As with the training data, inefficient or poorly managed database systems have failed to keep accurate records of whether individuals working with minors have been checked, and even if accurate numbers are available, some parishes still fail to submit their information timely. We noted five dioceses that should reassess the effectiveness of their databases with respect to background check data, and their Management Letters addressed this issue.

We compiled the 2013 background evaluation data below, divided by category from the 191 dioceses and eparchies that participated in either of the on-site or data collection audits. Data from prior years is presented for comparison purposes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dioceses/eparchies participating</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total priests</td>
<td>36,131</td>
<td>38,199</td>
<td>38,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total priests background checked</td>
<td>35,970</td>
<td>38,045</td>
<td>38,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent checked</td>
<td>99.6%</td>
<td>99.6%</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deacons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total deacons</td>
<td>16,245</td>
<td>15,796</td>
<td>15,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total deacons background checked</td>
<td>16,199</td>
<td>15,695</td>
<td>15,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent checked</td>
<td>99.7%</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
<td>99.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidates for Ordination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total candidates</td>
<td>6,458</td>
<td>6,372</td>
<td>6,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total candidates background checked</td>
<td>6,428</td>
<td>6,320</td>
<td>6,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent checked</td>
<td>99.5%</td>
<td>99.2%</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educators</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total educators</td>
<td>168,782</td>
<td>168,067</td>
<td>159,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total educators background checked</td>
<td>168,013</td>
<td>164,935</td>
<td>158,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent checked</td>
<td>99.5%</td>
<td>98.1%</td>
<td>99.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Employees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total employees</td>
<td>257,222</td>
<td>258,380</td>
<td>249,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total employees background checked</td>
<td>253,587</td>
<td>250,092</td>
<td>241,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent checked</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total volunteers</td>
<td>1,936,983</td>
<td>1,920,001</td>
<td>1,850,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total volunteers background checked</td>
<td>1,898,136</td>
<td>1,861,160</td>
<td>1,790,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent checked</td>
<td>98.0%</td>
<td>96.9%</td>
<td>96.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is important to note that these figures represent individuals who have been checked at least once. The Charter is silent as to the frequency of screening, but many dioceses and eparchies have begun rescreening their clergy, employees, and volunteers. Some dioceses rescreen these individuals annually, and others rescreen every 2–10 years. As in years past, we recommended that sixteen dioceses and eparchies consider rescreening their clergy, employees, and volunteers. Our standard recommendation is every 5–7 years if subsequent arrest reports are not provided by background check agencies. A complete list of background checks agencies used in dioceses and eparchies throughout the United States is posted on the SCYP website.
Chapter Two: Audit Report 2013

Article 14

Article 14 governs the relocation of accused clerics between dioceses. Before clerics who have been accused of sexual abuse of a minor can relocate for residence, the cleric’s home bishop must communicate suitability status to the receiving bishop. To assess compliance with Article 14, we reviewed diocesan/eparchial policies to understand the procedures for receiving transferred and visiting priests and deacons. We inquired of the appropriate parties the protocol for such transfer, and attempted to confirm that practice was consistent with the policy. Ten Management Letters suggested that dioceses revise their policies to include specific procedures for both transfers in and transfers out. We also requested copies of letters of suitability received during the period, and further inquired as to the diocese or eparchy’s retention policy for those letters. Some dioceses and/or eparchies retain the letters indefinitely. Others discard the letters as soon as a visiting cleric’s stay has expired. Nine Management Letters recommended clarifying the suitability letter policy, and establishing a corresponding retention policy. All dioceses and eparchies visited in 2013 were compliant with Article 14.

Article 15

Article 15 has two components, only one of which is subject to our audit. That is, periodic meetings are required between bishops and the Major Superiors of Men whose clerics are serving within a diocese or eparchy. The purpose of these meetings is to determine each party’s role and responsibilities in the event that an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor is brought against a religious order cleric. Although the Charter does not define “periodic,” we recommended that bishops meet or otherwise correspond with the Major Superiors annually, and that the bishop document these meetings. We stressed the importance of documenting procedures for handling these cases in the event that an allegation against a religious order cleric is made. All dioceses and eparchies visited in 2013 were compliant with Article 15.

Article 16

Article 16 requires dioceses and eparchies to cooperate with other organizations, especially within their communities, to conduct research in the area of child sexual abuse. At the most basic level, dioceses and eparchies are required to participate in the annual CARA Survey, the results of which are included in the SCYP’s Annual Report.

Article 17

Article 17 covers formation of clergy, from the seminary through retirement. Compliance with this Article was assessed by interviewing diocesan/eparchial personnel responsible for formation of clergy and candidates for ordination, and by reviewing supporting documentation such as registration forms for clergy seminars, textbooks used for the formation of candidates for the permanent diaconate, and brochures advertising priestly retreats. All dioceses and eparchies audited during 2013 were found compliant with Article 17. However, we noted in some cases that there was no individual in charge of coordinating formation, and as a result, the programs suffered. We recommended that the dioceses be sure to commit the necessary resources for evaluating the programs in order to support the wellness of their clergy.

Other Findings

Below are general issues noted during our audits which do not fall under a specific Charter Article, but may represent weaknesses in any diocese/eparchy’s safe environment program.

• Some personnel listed in diocesan/eparchial directories used personal email addresses to conduct parish or other church-related activities, even though the diocese or eparchy provided those individuals a diocese or parish sponsored email address. We continued to recommend in nine Management Letters that dioceses and eparchies create a policy which requires the use of “official” email addresses for parish or other church activities. Use of official email addresses by personnel allows dioceses and eparchies to have more oversight of electronic communication.

• Dioceses and eparchies should develop policies governing electronic interaction with children, such as through social media or text messaging. We recommended in five Management Letters that dioceses and eparchies develop policies regarding virtual interaction with children by personnel, including teachers, catechists, and coaches. Such a policy protects both the children and the adults who care for them.
Other Recommendations

The following recommendations apply to all dioceses and eparchies, and are simply suggestions for improving existing Charter compliance programs.

- We continue to encourage dioceses and eparchies to participate in parish audits, especially those that do not self-audit. We strongly recommend that dioceses and eparchies that did not participate in parish audits during the 2011–2013 audit cycle reconsider participation for the 2014–2016 audit cycle.

- We recommend that bishops reevaluate the form and function of their review boards to address the issues noted under Article 2 in this section. Discussion topics for an annual meeting could include:
  
  - The 2011 revisions to the Charter discussed under Articles 4 and 6 in this section.
  
  - The April 2013 letter from Bishop Conlon to all bishops and eparchs requesting input on the next Charter revision.
  
  - The cumulative results of the 2011–2013 audit cycle as presented in the 2011, 2012, and 2013 Annual Reports published by the SCYP.
  
  - Any recent news stories on the topic of sexual abuse of minors.
  
  - The USCCB’s Diocesan Review Board Resource Booklet available electronically on the SCYP web page.

- We recommend that dioceses and eparchies continually assess the quality and performance of databases used for recordkeeping, especially records that relate to maintaining a safe environment for children and youth. Dioceses and eparchies should be willing to commit the necessary resources to allow for efficient and effective tracking of compliance for both active and inactive employees and volunteers.

- Finally, we strongly recommend that dioceses and eparchies ensure that background screening agencies used for Charter compliance include records from all appropriate jurisdictions. Local, state, national, and sex offender registry checks should be available in the background screening packages being considered.

CONCLUSION

The Catholic Church in the United States continues to handle the issue of sexual abuse of minors by clergy effectively through the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. By authorizing these audits each year, the bishops and eparchs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops demonstrate their unyielding commitment to the protection of children and the prevention of sexual abuse of the vulnerable among us. Prevention is made possible by the commitment and effort of the personnel involved in the Charter’s implementation. We recognize the dedication of these individuals and we are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with them throughout the 2011–2013 audit cycle. Finally, we thank the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, the National Review Board, and the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection for their ongoing support of the audit process.
APPENDIX I: ON-SITE AUDITS PERFORMED
BY STONEBRIDGE DURING 2013

- Diocese of Alexandria
- Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
- Diocese of Arlington
- Diocese of Beaumont
- Diocese of Birmingham
- Diocese of Cleveland
- Diocese of Columbus
- Diocese of Des Moines
- Archdiocese of Dubuque
- Eparchy of St. Josaphat of Parma
- Diocese of Erie
- Diocese of Fall River
- Diocese of Fargo
- Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
- Diocese of Gallup
- Diocese of Gary
- Diocese of Grand Rapids
- Diocese of Harrisburg
- Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux
- Diocese of Jackson
- Diocese of Juneau
- Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph
- Diocese of Knoxville
- Diocese of Lafayette, IN
- Diocese of Las Vegas
- Diocese of Lexington
- Diocese of Lubbock
- Diocese of Madison
- Diocese of Marquette
- Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- Archdiocese of Mobile
- Archdiocese of New York
- Archdiocese of Newark
- Diocese of Oakland
- Diocese of Palm Beach
- Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee
- Diocese of Peoria
- Archeparchy of Philadelphia
- Archdiocese of Portland, OR
- Diocese of Portland, ME
- Diocese of Providence
- Diocese of Pueblo
- Diocese of Rapid City
- Diocese of Rockford
- Diocese of San Antonio
- Diocese of San Diego
- Diocese of San Jose
- Diocese of Springfield, MA
- Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, MO
- Diocese of St. Cloud
- Eparchy of St. George in Canton
- Archdiocese of St. Louis
- Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn
- Diocese of Stockton
- Eparchy of St. Thomas of Chicago
- Diocese of Tyler
- Diocese of Venice
- Diocese of Victoria
- Archdiocese of Washington, DC
- Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
- Diocese of Wichita
- Diocese of Yakima
Chapter Three
2013 CARA Survey of Allegations and Costs: A Summary Report

Introduction

At their Fall General Assembly in November 2004, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to design and conduct an annual survey of all the dioceses and eparchies whose bishops or eparchs are members of the USCCB. The purpose of this survey is to collect information on new allegations of sexual abuse of minors and the clergy against whom these allegations were made. The survey also gathers information on the amount of money dioceses and eparchies have expended as a result of allegations as well as the amount they have paid for child protection efforts. The national level aggregate results from this survey for each calendar year are prepared for the USCCB and reported in its Annual Report of the Implementation of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.”

The questionnaire for the 2013 Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs was designed by CARA in consultation with the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and was nearly identical to the versions used from 2004 to 2012. As in previous years, CARA prepared an online version of the survey and hosted it on the CARA website. Bishops and eparchs received information about the process for completing the survey in their early-November correspondence from the USCCB and were asked to provide the name of the contact person who would complete the survey. The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) also invited major superiors of clerical and mixed religious institutes to complete a similar survey for their congregations, provinces, or monasteries.

CARA completed data collection for the 2013 annual survey on February 10, 2014. All but one of the 195 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB completed the survey, for a response rate of 99.5 percent. The Diocese of Lincoln once again declined to participate. A total of 155 of the 215 clerical and mixed religious institutes that belong to CMSM responded to the survey, for a response rate of 72 percent. The overall response rate for dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes was 85 percent, about the same response rate as in previous years for this survey. CARA then prepared the national level summary tables and graphs of the findings for calendar year 2013, with tables comparing allegations and costs from 2004–2013, which are presented in this report.

Dioceses and Eparchies

The Data Collection Process

Dioceses and eparchies began submitting their data for the 2013 survey in early December 2013. CARA and the Secretariat contacted every diocese or eparchy that had not sent in a contact name by late December 2012 to obtain the name of a contact person to complete the survey. CARA and the Secretariat sent multiple e-mail and phone reminders to these contact persons to encourage a high response rate.

By February 10, 2014, all but one of the 195 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB had responded to the
survey, for a response rate of 99.5 percent. The Diocese of Lincoln once again declined to participate. The participation among dioceses and eparchies has been nearly total each year of this survey starting at 93 percent in 2004 and 94 percent in 2005 and has remained at 99 percent since 2006.

A copy of the survey instrument for dioceses and eparchies is included in this report at Appendix B.

**Credible Allegations Received by Dioceses and Eparchies in 2013**

The responding dioceses and eparchies reported that between January 1 and December 31, 2013, they received 370 new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a diocesan or eparchial priest or deacon. These allegations were made by 365 individuals against 290 priests or deacons. As Table 1 shows, this is a decrease from 2012 in the numbers of victims, allegations, and offenders reported and the fewest allegations and victims reported since data collection for these annual reports began in 2004.

Compared to 2012, new reports of allegations decreased by 7 percent (from 397 new credible allegations in 2012 to 370 new credible allegations in 2013). The number of alleged offenders also decreased by 7 percent, from 313 alleged offenders reported in 2012 to 290 alleged offenders reported in 2013.

Of the 370 new allegations reported in 2013, some nine allegations (2 percent), involved children under the age of 18 in 2013. The remaining 361 allegations were made by adults who are alleging abuse when they were minors. By comparison, eleven allegations in 2012 (3 percent of all new allegations in 2012), twenty-one allegations in 2011 (4 percent of all new allegations in 2011 or 2012), seven allegations in 2010 (2 percent of all new allegations in 2010), eight allegations in 2009 (2 percent of all new allegations in 2009), ten allegations in 2008 (2 percent of all new allegations received in 2008), four allegations in 2007 (less than 1 percent of all new allegations received in 2007), fourteen allegations in 2006 (2 percent of all new allegations received in 2006), nine allegations in 2005 (1 percent of all new allegations received in 2005), and twenty-two allegations in 2004 (2 percent of new allegations received in 2004) involved children under the age of eighteen in each of those years.

Figure 1 illustrates the way in which allegations were reported to the dioceses or eparchies in 2013. About half of new allegations (48 percent) were reported by the victim and a more than a third (36 percent) were reported by an attorney.

Compared to 2012, there are few differences in who reported the allegations:

- Allegations reported by a victim increased from 40 percent in 2012 to 48 percent in 2013.
- Likewise, allegations reported by attorneys also increased slightly, from 32 percent in 2012 to 36 percent in 2013.
- A family member reported 7 percent of allegations in 2013, compared to 12 percent in 2012.
- Just 2 percent of all allegations were reported by someone other than the victim, an attorney, a family member, a friend, law enforcement, or a bishop from another diocese, compared to 8 percent in 2012.

Some of these other persons reporting allegations include a victim assistance coordinator from another diocese, an employee, other priests, a school principal, counselors or therapists, and anonymous reports.

Figure 2 presents the percentage of all new allegations of abuse that were cases involving solely child

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Victims</th>
<th>Allegations</th>
<th>Offenders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>889</td>
<td>898</td>
<td>622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>695</td>
<td>463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Change (2012-2013)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>-23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1. Method of Reporting Allegations of Abuse: Dioceses and Eparchies**

- Victim: 48%
- Attorney: 36%
- Family: 7%
- Friend: 2%
- Law Enforcement: 2%
- Bishop of Another Diocese: 2%
- Other: 3%

*Source: 2013 Survey of Allegations and Costs*

**Figure 2. Percentage of Allegations Involving Only Child Pornography: Dioceses and Eparchies**

- Child Pornography: 1%
- Other Allegations: 98%

*Source: 2013 Survey of Allegations and Costs*
The sex of seven of the 365 alleged victims reported in 2013 was not identified in the allegation. Among those for whom the sex of the victim was reported, 80 percent (286 victims) were male and 20 percent (72 victims) were female. This proportion is illustrated in Figure 3.

The proportion of male and female victims is nearly identical to that reported in previous years: 84 percent males and 16 percent females in 2012, and 82 percent males and 18 percent females in 2011 and in 2010.

More than four in ten victims (44 percent) were between the ages of ten and fourteen when the alleged abuse began. About the same proportion of the victims were between the ages of fifteen and seventeen (22 percent) or under age ten (19 percent). The age could not be determined for a tenth of victims (12 percent). Figure 4 presents the distribution of victims by age at the time the alleged abuse began.

Figure 5 shows the years in which the abuse reported in 2013 was alleged to have occurred or begun. Two-thirds of new allegations (69 percent) occurred or began between 1960 and 1984. The most common time period for allegations reported in 2013 was 1970–1974 (64 allegations) or 1975–1979 (61 allegations). This is approximately the same time pattern that has been reported in previous years, with most allegations reportedly occurring or beginning between the mid-1960s and the mid-1980s. For twenty-one new allegations reported in 2013 (6 percent), no time frame for the alleged abuse could be determined by the allegation.

Of the 290 diocesan or eparchial priests or deacons that were identified in new allegations in 2013, most (80 percent) had been ordained for the diocese or eparchy in which the abuse was alleged to have occurred. At the time of the alleged abuse, 4 percent of alleged perpetrators were priests who were incardinated into that diocese or eparchy and 8 percent were extern priests (6 percent from another U.S. diocese and 2 percent from a diocese outside the United States) who were serving in the diocese temporarily. Just eight of the alleged perpetrators (3 percent) identified in new allegations in 2013 were permanent deacons. Six percent of alleged perpetrators were classified as “other,” most commonly because they were

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**Figure 3. Sex of Abuse Victim: Dioceses and Eparchies**

- **Male**: 80%
- **Female**: 20%

*Source: 2013 Survey of Allegations and Costs*
Figure 4. Age of Victim When Abuse Began: Dioceses and Eparchies

Figure 5. Year Alleged Offense Occurred or Began: Dioceses and Eparchies

Source: 2013 Survey of Allegations and Costs
Figure 6. Ecclesial Status of Alleged Perpetrator: Dioceses and Eparchies

Source: 2013 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 7. Percentage of Alleged Perpetrators with Prior Allegations: Dioceses and Eparchies

Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2006–2013
were either unnamed in the allegation or their name was unknown to the diocese or eparchy. Figure 6 displays the ecclesial status of offenders at the time of the alleged offense.

Almost three in five (56 percent) of the 290 priests and deacons identified as alleged offenders in 2013 had already been identified in prior allegations. In 2012, that proportion was 58 percent and in 2011 it was 64 percent. Figure 7 depicts the percentage with prior allegations in 2012, compared to previous years.

Three-quarters of alleged offenders (73 percent) identified in 2013 are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing. Another nineteen priests or deacons (7 percent) were permanently removed from ministry in 2013. In addition to the nineteen offenders identified in 2013 and permanently removed from ministry, another twenty-three priests or deacons who had been identified in allegations of abuse before 2013 were permanently removed from ministry in 2013.

Eighteen priests or deacons were returned to ministry in 2013 based on the resolution of an allegation made during or prior to 2013 (nine who were identified in 2013 and nine who were identified before 2013). In addition, eighty-four priests or deacons (28 who were identified in 2013 and 56 who were identified before 2013) have been temporarily removed from ministry pending completion of an investigation. Notwithstanding the year in which the abuse was reported, ten diocesan and eparchial clergy remain in active ministry pending a preliminary investigation of an allegation (seven who were identified in 2013 and three who were identified prior to 2013).

Figure 8 shows the current status of alleged offenders.

Of the 370 new credible allegations reported in 2013, 63 new allegations (17 percent) were unsubstantiated or determined to be false by December 31, 2013. In addition, 33 allegations received prior to 2013 were unsubstantiated or determined to be false during 2013. Figure 9 presents the percentage of all new credible allegations received in 2013 that were unsubstantiated or determined to be false in 2013, compared to previous years.

**Costs to Dioceses and Eparchies in 2013**

Dioceses and eparchies that responded to the survey and reported costs related to allegations paid out $108,954,109 in 2013. This includes payments in 2013 for allegations reported in previous years. Forty-three responding dioceses and eparchies reported no expenditures in 2013 related to allegations of sexual abuse.
Figure 9. New Allegations Unsubstantiated or Determined to be False: Dioceses and Eparchies

Table 2. Costs Related to Allegations by Dioceses and Eparchies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Settlements</th>
<th>Therapy for Victims</th>
<th>Support for Offenders</th>
<th>Attorneys' Fees</th>
<th>Other Costs</th>
<th>GRAND TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$93,364,172</td>
<td>$6,613,283</td>
<td>$1,413,093</td>
<td>$32,706,598</td>
<td>$5,485,011</td>
<td>$139,582,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$386,010,171</td>
<td>$7,648,226</td>
<td>$11,831,028</td>
<td>$36,467,516</td>
<td>$3,729,607</td>
<td>$445,686,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>$220,099,188</td>
<td>$9,731,815</td>
<td>$30,362,609</td>
<td>$69,780,366</td>
<td>$2,996,581</td>
<td>$332,970,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$420,385,135</td>
<td>$7,243,663</td>
<td>$13,347,981</td>
<td>$53,394,074</td>
<td>$4,308,005</td>
<td>$498,678,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$324,181,740</td>
<td>$7,114,697</td>
<td>$11,605,914</td>
<td>$29,572,948</td>
<td>$3,766,432</td>
<td>$376,241,731</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$55,048,006</td>
<td>$6,536,109</td>
<td>$10,894,368</td>
<td>$28,705,402</td>
<td>$3,255,744</td>
<td>$104,439,629</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$70,375,228</td>
<td>$6,423,099</td>
<td>$9,931,727</td>
<td>$33,895,944</td>
<td>$3,077,435</td>
<td>$123,703,433</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$50,374,648</td>
<td>$6,142,810</td>
<td>$9,862,110</td>
<td>$36,737,366</td>
<td>$5,562,772</td>
<td>$108,679,706</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$56,005,245</td>
<td>$7,211,667</td>
<td>$11,818,662</td>
<td>$35,341,740</td>
<td>$2,589,113</td>
<td>$112,966,427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$61,086,474</td>
<td>$6,144,818</td>
<td>$10,443,829</td>
<td>$28,914,736</td>
<td>$2,364,252</td>
<td>$108,954,109</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Change (+/-)

2012-2013: $5,081,229 -$1,066,849 -$1,374,833 -$6,427,004 -$224,861 -$4,012,318

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004–2013
of a minor. Table 2 compares payments by dioceses and eparchies from 2004 through 2013 across several categories of allegation-related expenses. The total costs reported by dioceses and eparchies in 2013 are $4,012,318 less than those reported in 2012.

More than half of the payments by dioceses and eparchies in 2013 (56 percent) were for settlements to victims. Attorneys’ fees constituted more than a quarter (27 percent) of the total cost ($28,914,736). Support for offenders (including therapy, living expenses, legal expenses, etc.) amounted to another 10 percent of allegation-related costs ($10,443,829). An additional 6 percent of the total cost was for payments for therapy for victims (if not already included in the settlement). Payments for settlements increased, while payments for therapy for victims, support for offenders, attorneys’ fees, and other costs decreased from those reported in 2012.

Among the “other” costs reported by dioceses and eparchies ($2,364,252) are payments for items such as investigations of allegations, medical costs and other support for victims or survivors, litigation costs, travel expenses and emergency assistance for victims, therapy and other support for family members of victims, monitoring services for offenders, advertising, insurance premiums, diocesan review board, and USCCB compliance audit costs.

Figure 10 displays the costs paid by dioceses and eparchies for settlements and for attorneys’ fees from 2004 through 2013.

Compared to 2012, amounts paid for settlements in 2013 increased by 9 percent and the amount paid in attorneys’ fees decreased by 18 percent. Amounts paid for therapy for victims and support for offenders decreased by 15 and 12 percent, respectively, while the amount paid for other costs decreased by 9 percent during that time.

Figure 11 illustrates the total allegation-related costs paid by dioceses and eparchies and the approximate proportion of those costs that were covered by diocesan insurance. Diocesan insurance payments covered a fifth (21 percent) of the total allegation-related costs paid by dioceses and eparchies in 2013. By comparison, insurance paid for 18 percent of the total allegation-related costs paid by dioceses and eparchies in 2012, just over a quarter (27 percent) in 2011 and 2010, a third (34 percent) in 2009, 38 percent in 2008, a third (34 percent) in 2007, just over a quarter (27 percent) in 2006, nearly half (49 percent) in 2005, and a third (32 percent) in 2004.
In addition to allegation-related expenditures, at least $38,410,123 was spent by dioceses and eparchies for child protection efforts such as safe environment coordinators, training programs, and background checks, an increase of 52 percent from the $25,318,477 reported for those expenses in 2012. Figure 12 compares the allegation-related costs to child protection expenditures paid by dioceses and eparchies from 2004 through 2013.

**CLERICAL AND MIXED RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES**

The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) also encouraged the major superiors of clerical and mixed religious institutes to complete a survey for their congregations, provinces, or monasteries. This survey was nearly identical to the survey for dioceses and eparchies and was also available online at the same site as the survey for dioceses and eparchies. CMSM sent a letter and a copy of the survey to all member major superiors in mid-November 2013, requesting their participation. CARA and CMSM also sent several reminders by e-mail to major superiors to encourage them to respond. By February 10, 2014, CARA received responses from 155 of the 215 clerical and mixed religious institutes that belong to CMSM, for a response rate of 72 percent. This is very similar to the response for previous years of this survey, which was 73 percent in 2012 and 2011, 72 percent in 2010, 73 percent in 2009, 2008, and 2007, 68 percent in 2006, 67 percent in 2005, and 71 percent in 2004.

A copy of the survey instrument for religious institutes is included at Appendix C.

**Credible Allegations Received by Clerical and Mixed Religious Institutes in 2013**

The responding clerical and mixed religious institutes reported that between January 1 and December 31, 2013, they received ninety-four new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor committed by a priest or deacon of the community. These allegations were made against sixty-two individuals who were priest or deacon members of the community at the time the offense was alleged to have occurred. Table 3 presents these numbers and the comparable numbers reported from 2004 through 2013. New reports of allegations increased by 26 percent from 2012 and the number of alleged offenders also increased by 3 percent.
Of the ninety-four new allegations reported by religious institutes in 2013, one involved a child under the age of eighteen in 2013. The other ninety-three allegations were made by adults who are alleging abuse as minors in previous years. By comparison, one new allegation in 2012, two new allegations in 2011 (2 percent of new allegations received in 2011), none in 2010 or 2009, three allegations in 2008 (2 percent) one allegation in 2007 (1 percent), three allegations in 2006 (4 percent), no allegations in 2005, and one allegation in 2004 involved children under the age of 18 in each of those years.

Figure 13 displays the way in which allegations were reported to the religious institutes in 2013. Just over a third of allegations (37 percent) were reported by the victim. Four in ten (43 percent) were reported by an attorney. A bishop or eparch, most typically from the diocese or eparchy in which the accused offender was serving at the time the alleged abuse occurred, reported 12 percent of allegations. Two percent of allegations were reported by a family member, 1 percent by a friend or by law enforcement, and 4 percent were reported by someone else.

Table 3. New Credible Allegations Reported by Religious Institutes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Victims</th>
<th>Allegations</th>
<th>Offenders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>62</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change (+/-)</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Victims</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegations</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offenders</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004–2013
Compared to 2012, the proportion of all allegations that were reported by a victim, a victim’s family, or by a bishop/eparch decreased and the proportion reported by an attorney, law enforcement, or the friend of a victim increased. These percentage changes, however, are the result of small differences in the number of allegations within the categories because the total number of allegations reported by religious institutes (94) is much smaller than the total number reported by dioceses and eparchies (370). Some of the differences in reporting in recent years include:

- Victims reported 37 percent of allegations in 2013, compared to 42 percent in 2012, 54 percent in 2011, 39 percent in 2010, 15 percent in 2009, 23 percent in 2008, and 38 percent in 2007.
- A bishop or eparch reported 12 percent of allegations in 2013, compared to 18 percent in 2012, 14 percent in 2011, 32 percent in 2010, 9 percent in 2009, 10 percent in 2008, and 30 percent in 2007.
- Attorneys reported 43 percent of allegations in 2013, compared to 24 percent in 2012, 21 percent in 2011 and 2010, 68 percent in 2009, 60 percent in 2008, and 16 percent in 2007.
- Family members reported 2 percent of allegations in 2013, compared to 5 percent in 2012, 2011, and 2010, 7 percent in 2009, and 3 percent in 2008 and 2007.
- Four percent of new credible allegations in 2013 were reported by “Other,” compared to 11 percent in 2012, 2 percent in 2011, 3 percent in 2010, 1 percent in 2009, 1 percent in 2008, and 10 percent in 2007.
- One percent of the allegations reported in 2013 were reported by law enforcement, compared to none in 2012 and 2 percent of the allegations reported in 2011.

None of the seventy-four new allegations was a case solely involving child pornography, as is shown in Figure 14. By comparison, one of the new allegations in 2012, none in 2011, 2010, or 2009, two allegations in 2008, one allegation each in 2007, 2006, 2005, and none in 2004 involved child pornography alone.

Figure 13. Method of Reporting Allegations of Abuse: Religious Institutes

Source: 2013 Survey of Allegations and Costs
Victims, Offenses, and Offenders in 2013

Nearly all the alleged victims reported in 2013 were male (88 percent); just over one in ten (12 percent) were female. By comparison, in 2012 the ratio was 85 percent male and 15 percent female; in 2011 the ratio was 94 percent male and 6 percent female; in 2010 the ratio was 77 percent male and 23 percent female; in 2009 religious institutes reported that eight in ten alleged victims were male and fewer than one in five were female. The proportion of male and female is displayed in Figure 15.

Half of victims (51 percent) were ages ten to fourteen when the alleged abuse began and a third (33 percent) were between fifteen and seventeen. One in ten (11 percent) was under age ten and the age of the victim could not be determined for four of the new allegations (4 percent). Figure 16 presents the distribution of victims by age at the time the alleged abuse began.

Four in ten new allegations reported in 2013 (38 percent) are alleged to have occurred or begun before 1970 and half (51 percent) were between 1970 and 1990. Religious institutes reported that 1975–1979 (15 allegations) and 1980–1984 (18 allegations) was the most common time period for the alleged occurrences, identical to the mid-1970s to mid-1980s time frame that was most commonly reported in prior years. Four of the new allegations reported in 2013 are alleged to have occurred or begun since 1989. Figure 17 illustrates the years when the allegations reported in 2013 were said to have occurred or begun.

Of the sixty-two religious priests against whom new allegations were made in 2013, most (79 percent) were priests of a U.S. province or community, serving in the United States at the time the abuse was alleged to have occurred. None of those identified in new allegations in 2013 were deacons. Figure 18 displays the ecclesial status of offenders at the time of the alleged abuse.

About one in ten alleged offenders (11 percent) were priests who were members of the province at the time of the alleged abuse but who are no longer a member of the religious institute. Another 2 percent were priests of the province who were assigned outside of the United States at the time the abuse was alleged to have occurred. None of those identified in new allegations in 2013 were deacons. Figure 18 displays the ecclesial status of offenders at the time of the alleged abuse.

Almost two-thirds of the religious priests against whom new allegations were made in 2013 had no prior allegations and nearly four in ten had already been the subject of previous allegations in prior years. This is
Figure 15. Sex of Abuse Victim: Religious Institutes

Source: 2013 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 16. Age of Victim When Abuse Began: Religious Institutes

Source: 2013 Survey of Allegations and Costs
Figure 17. Year Alleged Offense Occurred or Began: Religious Institutes

Figure 18. Ecclesial Status of Alleged Perpetrator: Religious Institutes

Source: 2013 Survey of Allegations and Costs
similar to the pattern reported in 2006 and repeated since 2011 when a majority of the alleged perpetrators had previous allegations against them. By contrast, from 2007 through 2010 the majority of the alleged perpetrators had no previous allegations against them. Figure 19 presents the proportions for 2013 compared to previous years.

Three-quarters of the alleged offenders identified in 2013 (47 priests) were deceased, had already been removed from ministry, or had already left the religious institute at the time the allegation was reported. Another 8 percent of alleged offenders identified in 2013 were permanently removed from ministry in 2013. Figure 20 displays the current status of alleged offenders.

In addition to the five offenders identified in 2013 and permanently removed from ministry in 2013, another ten priests who had been identified in allegations of abuse before 2013 were permanently removed from ministry in 2013.

Four priests were returned to ministry in 2013 based on the resolution of an allegation made in 2013 or earlier. In addition, eight religious priests (one who was identified in 2013 and seven who were identified before 2013) were temporarily removed pending completion of an investigation. One priest is reported to be in active ministry pending a preliminary investigation of an allegation.

Of the 94 new allegations reported to religious institutes in 2013, 11 percent (ten new allegations) were determined to be unsubstantiated by December 31, 2013. Another seven allegations received prior to 2013 were also determined to be unsubstantiated during 2013. Figure 21 presents the percentage of all new allegations received in 2013 that were determined to be unsubstantiated in 2013 and compares it with the same data for previous years.

**Costs to Clerical and Mixed Religious Institutes in 2013**

The responding clerical and mixed religious institutes reported $14,411,168 paid out in 2013 for costs related to allegations. This includes costs paid in 2013 for allegations reported in previous years. Table 4 compares the payments by religious institutes from 2004 through 2013 across several categories of allegation-related expenses. The total reported allegation-related costs to clerical and mixed religious institutes declined by 28 percent from the amount reported in 2012, largely due to decreased settlement costs.
Figure 20. Current Status of Alleged Perpetrators: Religious Institutes

Figure 21. New Allegations Unsubstantiated or Determined to be False: Religious Institutes
Two-fifths of the payments by religious institutes in 2013 (42 percent) were for settlements to victims. Attorneys’ fees were an additional 4.5 million dollars (31 percent of all costs related to allegations reported by religious institutes). Support for offenders (including therapy, living expenses, legal expenses, etc.) amounted to $2,935,171 (20 percent). An additional $509,283 (4 percent) was for payments for therapy for victims (if not included in the settlement).

Payments designated as “other costs” reported by religious institutes ($363,921 or 3 percent of the grand total) included victim outreach and assistance programs, consultants and investigators, training, and Praesidium expenses. The costs in this category are in line with those reported in 2010 and earlier. An extraordinary expense at one institute accounted for the much higher reported “other costs” the previous two years.

The difference in cost here between 2004 and later years is largely attributable to a change in question wording in 2005. See the explanation in the previous footnote.

Figure 22 illustrates the settlement-related costs and attorneys’ fees paid by religious institutes from 2004 through 2013. Settlement costs in 2013 are most similar to those paid out in 2004, 2005, and 2009. Four religious institutes with relatively large settlements in 2007 accounted for 70 percent of the settlement costs in that year. Attorneys’ fees have remained relatively stable between 2004 and 2013.

Figure 23 displays the total allegation-related costs paid by religious institutes from 2004 through 2013 and the proportion of those costs that were covered by insurance. Very little (6 percent) of the total allegation-related costs paid by religious institutes in 2013 was covered by insurance, almost identical to the 4 percent in 2012, 3 percent in 2011, and 4 percent in 2010 that was covered by insurance. By comparison, 7 percent of the total allegation-related costs in 2009, 19 percent in 2008, 34 percent in 2007, 23 percent in 2006, 13 percent in 2005, and 12 percent in 2004 were covered by insurance.

Table 4. Costs Related to Allegations by Religious Institutes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Settlements</th>
<th>Therapy for Victims</th>
<th>Support for Offenders</th>
<th>Attorneys’ Fees</th>
<th>Other Costs</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$12,877,637</td>
<td>$793,053</td>
<td>$456,237</td>
<td>$3,544,847</td>
<td>$548,880</td>
<td>$18,220,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$13,027,285</td>
<td>$755,971</td>
<td>$1,838,110</td>
<td>$4,784,124</td>
<td>$841,434</td>
<td>$21,246,924</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>$57,114,232</td>
<td>$913,924</td>
<td>$1,905,534</td>
<td>$5,374,850</td>
<td>$318,595</td>
<td>$65,627,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$105,841,148</td>
<td>$691,775</td>
<td>$2,097,993</td>
<td>$7,073,540</td>
<td>$781,375</td>
<td>$116,485,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$50,226,814</td>
<td>$792,426</td>
<td>$2,620,194</td>
<td>$5,856,003</td>
<td>$406,029</td>
<td>$59,901,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$8,527,837</td>
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<td>$1,632,585</td>
<td>$4,291,209</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>$18,361,845</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$14,411,168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Change (+/-) 2012-2013: $-6,193,382 $-181,460 $17,505 $1,395,459 $-766,338 $-5,728,216

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004–2013
Figure 22. Payments for Settlements and Attorneys’ Fees: Religious Institutes

Figure 23. Approximate Percentage of Total Paid by Insurance: Religious Institutes

Insurance payments covered approximately 6 percent of total allegation-related costs to religious institutes in 2013.
In addition to allegation-related expenditures, religious institutes spent more than three million dollars ($3,311,552) for child protection efforts, such as training programs and background checks. This is the highest amount reported by religious institutes for child protection efforts in the ten years that these data have been collected. Figure 24 compares the settlement-related costs and child protection expenditures paid by religious institutes in 2004 through 2012.

**TOTAL COMBINED RESPONSES OF DIOCESES, EPARCHIES, AND CLERICAL AND MIXED RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES**

Tables 5, 6, and 7 present the combined total responses of dioceses, eparchies, and clerical and mixed religious institutes. These tables depict the total number of allegations, victims, offenders, and costs as reported by these groups in 2013. In addition, the tables also show the

**Table 5. New Credible Allegations Reported Combined Totals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Victims</td>
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<td>777</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>457</td>
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<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegations</td>
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<td>783</td>
<td>714</td>
<td>691</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>471</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offenders</td>
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<td>532</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>-21</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004–2013
same combined figures for 2004 through 2013 to compare the totals across years.

As Table 5 shows, the total number of new allegations and victims decreased each year from 2004 through 2007, increased in 2008, and decreased to their lowest level in 2013. The total number of new allegations and victims reported in 2013 is nearly the same as in 2012, decreasing by 1 percent each.

By comparison, the total number of alleged offenders decreased each year between 2004 and 2006, increased in 2007 and 2008, and decreased again in 2009. The total number of alleged offenders increased again in 2010 and 2011, and then declined again in 2012 and 2013. The total number of alleged offenders is lower in 2013 than in any previous year except 2009. Compared to 2012, the number of alleged offenders decreased by 6 percent.

Table 6 displays the combined total costs for payments related to allegations, as reported each year from 2004 to 2013.

- The total costs related to allegations decreased by 7 percent between 2012 and 2013. These total costs had increased nearly every year between 2004 and 2007, but have been decreasing for the most part since then.

- The amount paid in settlements in 2007 was unusually large, while the amount paid for therapy for victims, support for offenders, and attorneys’ fees was highest in 2006.

- The overall trend across the categories is one of generally increasing costs related to allegations each year from 2004 to 2006 or 2007 and then decreasing costs in 2008 and 2009. Total costs increased substantially in 2010, due mostly to settlements and attorneys’ fees, and have decreased each year since 2010.

- In 2013, the amount paid in each category of allegations-related expenses decreased. The amounts paid in attorney’s fees and other costs decreased substantially, while the amount paid in settlements decreased by 2 percent from that paid in 2012. Costs related to therapy for victims and support for offenders also decreased from 2012 by 16 and 9 percent, respectively.

Table 7 compares the total costs for allegation-related expenses and the amount expended for child protection efforts from 2004 through 2013. The total amount spent for allegation-related expenses decreased by 7 percent between 2012 and 2013, while the total amount reported for child protection efforts increased by 57 percent during the same period.

### Table 6. Costs Related to Allegations Combined Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlements</th>
<th>Therapy for Victims</th>
<th>Support for Offenders</th>
<th>Attorneys’ Fees</th>
<th>Other Costs</th>
<th>GRAND TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$106,241,809</td>
<td>$7,406,336</td>
<td>$1,869,330</td>
<td>$36,251,445</td>
<td>$6,033,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$399,037,456</td>
<td>$8,404,197</td>
<td>$13,669,138</td>
<td>$41,251,640</td>
<td>$4,571,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>$277,213,420</td>
<td>$10,645,739</td>
<td>$32,268,143</td>
<td>$75,155,216</td>
<td>$3,315,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$526,226,283</td>
<td>$7,935,438</td>
<td>$15,445,974</td>
<td>$60,467,614</td>
<td>$5,089,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$63,575,843</td>
<td>$7,290,853</td>
<td>$12,526,953</td>
<td>$32,996,611</td>
<td>$3,697,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$88,737,073</td>
<td>$6,966,920</td>
<td>$11,774,423</td>
<td>$38,740,383</td>
<td>$3,405,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$73,681,782</td>
<td>$6,946,985</td>
<td>$11,946,009</td>
<td>$41,392,036</td>
<td>$10,084,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$67,190,165</td>
<td>$6,654,101</td>
<td>$13,379,000</td>
<td>$33,413,838</td>
<td>$2,728,173</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004–2013
Table 7. Costs for Settlements and Child Protection Combined Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement-related Costs</th>
<th>Child Protection Efforts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2004</strong></td>
<td>$157,802,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2005</strong></td>
<td>$466,933,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2006</strong></td>
<td>$398,597,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2007</strong></td>
<td>$615,164,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2008</strong></td>
<td>$436,143,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2009</strong></td>
<td>$120,087,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2010</strong></td>
<td>$149,624,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2011</strong></td>
<td>$144,051,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2012</strong></td>
<td>$133,105,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2013</strong></td>
<td>$123,365,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change (+/-)</strong></td>
<td>$-9,740,534</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004-2013
Since 2002, the Church in the United States has experienced a crisis without precedent in our times. The sexual abuse of children and young people by some deacons, priests, and bishops, and the ways in which these crimes and sins were addressed, have caused enormous pain, anger, and confusion. As bishops, we have acknowledged our mistakes and our roles in that suffering, and we apologize and take responsibility again for too often failing victims and the Catholic people in the past. From the depths of our hearts, we bishops express great sorrow and profound regret for what the Catholic people have endured.

Again, with this 2011 revision of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, we reaffirm our deep commitment to creating a safe environment within the Church for children and youth. We have listened to the profound pain and suffering of those victimized by sexual abuse and will continue to respond to their cries. We have agonized over the sinfulness, the criminality, and the breach of trust perpetrated by some members of the clergy. We have determined as best we can the extent of the problem of abuse of minors by clergy in our country, as well as commissioned a study of the causes and context of this problem.

We continue to have a special care for and a commitment to reaching out to the victims of sexual abuse and their families. The damage caused by sexual abuse of minors is devastating and long-lasting. We apologize to them for the grave harm that has been inflicted on them, and we offer our help for the future. The loss of trust that is often the consequence of such abuse becomes even more tragic when it leads to a loss of the faith that we have a sacred duty to foster. We make our own the words of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II: that the sexual abuse of young people is “by every standard wrong and rightly considered a crime by society; it is also an appalling sin in the eyes of God” (Address to the Cardinals of the United States and Conference Officers, April 23, 2002).

Along with the victims and their families, the entire Catholic community in this country has suffered because of this scandal and its consequences. In the last nine years, the intense public scrutiny of the minority of the ordained who have betrayed their calling has caused the vast majority of faithful priests and deacons to experience enormous vulnerability to being misunderstood in their ministry and even to the possibility of false accusations. We share with them a firm commitment to renewing the image of the vocation to Holy Orders so that it will continue to be perceived as a life of service to others after the example of Christ our Lord.

We, who have been given the responsibility of shepherding God’s people, will, with his help and in full collaboration with all the faithful, continue to work to restore the bonds of trust that unite us. Words alone cannot accomplish this goal. It will begin with the actions we take in our General Assembly and at home in our dioceses and eparchies.

We feel a particular responsibility for “the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Cor 5:18) which God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, has given us. The love of Christ impels us to ask forgiveness for our own faults but also to appeal to all—to those who have been victimized, to those who have offended, and to all who have felt the wound of this scandal—to be reconciled to God and one another.

Perhaps in a way never before experienced, we have felt the power of sin touch our entire Church family.
in this country; but as St. Paul boldly says, God made Christ “to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor 5:21). May we who have known sin experience as well, through a spirit of reconciliation, God’s own righteousness.

We know that after such profound hurt, healing and reconciliation are beyond human capacity alone. It is God’s grace and mercy that will lead us forward, trusting Christ’s promise: “for God all things are possible” (Mt 19:26).

In working toward fulfilling this responsibility, we have relied first of all on Almighty God to sustain us in faith and in the discernment of the right course to take.

We have received fraternal guidance and support from the Holy See that has sustained us in this time of trial.

We have relied on the Catholic faithful of the United States. Nationally and in each diocese, the wisdom and expertise of clergy, religious, and laity have contributed immensely to confronting the effects of the crisis and have taken steps to resolve it. We are filled with gratitude for their great faith, for their generosity, and for the spiritual and moral support that we have received from them.

We acknowledge and affirm the faithful service of the vast majority of our priests and deacons and the love that their people have for them. They deservedly have our esteem and that of the Catholic people for their good work. It is regrettable that their committed ministerial witness has been overshadowed by this crisis.

In a special way, we acknowledge those victims of clergy sexual abuse and their families who have trusted us enough to share their stories and to help us appreciate more fully the consequences of this reprehensible violation of sacred trust.

Let there now be no doubt or confusion on anyone’s part: For us, your bishops, our obligation to protect children and young people and to prevent sexual abuse flows from the mission and example given to us by Jesus Christ himself, in whose name we serve.

As we work to restore trust, we are reminded how Jesus showed constant care for the vulnerable. He inaugurated his ministry with these words of the Prophet Isaiah:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.
(Lk 4:18-19)

In Matthew 25, the Lord, in his commission to his apostles and disciples, told them that whenever they show mercy and compassion to the least ones, they show it to him.

Jesus extended this care in a tender and urgent way to children, rebuking his disciples for keeping them away from him: “Let the children come to me” (Mt 19:14). And he uttered a grave warning that for anyone who would lead the little ones astray, it would be better for such a person “to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea” (Mt 18:6).

We hear these words of the Lord as prophetic for this moment. With a firm determination to restore the bonds of trust, we bishops recommit ourselves to a continual pastoral outreach to repair the breach with those who have suffered sexual abuse and with all the people of the Church.

In this spirit, over the last nine years, the principles and procedures of the Charter have been integrated into church life.

• The Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection provides the focus for a consistent, ongoing, and comprehensive approach to creating a secure environment for young people throughout the Church in the United States.
• The Secretariat also provides the means for us to be accountable for achieving the goals of the Charter, as demonstrated by its annual reports on the implementation of the Charter based on independent compliance audits.
• The National Review Board is carrying on its responsibility to assist in the assessment of diocesan compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.
• The descriptive study of the nature and scope of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy in the United States, commissioned by the National Review Board, has been completed. The resulting study, examining the historical period 1950-2002, by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice provides us with a powerful tool not only to examine our past but also to secure our future against such misconduct.
• The U.S. bishops charged the National Review Board to oversee the completion of the Causes and Context study.
• Victims’ assistance coordinators are in place throughout our nation to assist dioceses in responding to the pastoral needs of those who have been injured by abuse.
• Diocesan/eparchial bishops in every diocese are advised and greatly assisted by diocesan review boards as the bishops make the decisions needed to fulfill the Charter.
• Safe environment programs are in place to assist parents and children—and those who work with children—in preventing harm to young people. These programs continually seek to incorporate the most useful developments in the field of child protection.

Through these steps and many others, we remain committed to the safety of our children and young people.

While it seems that the scope of this disturbing problem of sexual abuse of minors by clergy has been reduced over the last decade, the harmful effects of this abuse continue to be experienced both by victims and dioceses.

Thus it is with a vivid sense of the effort which is still needed to confront the effects of this crisis fully and with the wisdom gained by the experience of the last six years that we have reviewed and revised the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. We now re-affirm that we will assist in the healing of those who have been injured, will do all in our power to protect children and young people, and will work with our clergy, religious, and laity to restore trust and harmony in our faith communities, as we pray for God’s kingdom to come, here on earth, as it is in heaven.

To make effective our goals of a safe environment within the Church for children and young people and of preventing sexual abuse of minors by clergy in the future, we, the members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, have outlined in this Charter a series of practical and pastoral steps, and we commit ourselves to taking them in our dioceses and eparchies.

TO PROMOTE HEALING AND RECONCILIATION WITH VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS

ARTICLE 1. Dioceses/eparchies are to reach out to victims/survivors and their families and demonstrate a sincere commitment to their spiritual and emotional well-being. The first obligation of the Church with regard to the victims is for healing and reconciliation.

ARTICLE 2. Dioceses/eparchies are to have policies and procedures in place to respond promptly to any allegation where there is reason to believe that sexual abuse of a minor has occurred. Dioceses/eparchies are to have a competent person or persons to coordinate assistance for the immediate pastoral care of persons who report having been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other church personnel. The procedures for those making a complaint are to be readily available in printed form in the principal languages in which the liturgy is celebrated in the diocese/eparchy and be the subject of public announcements at least annually.

Dioceses/eparchies are also to have a review board that functions as a confidential consultative body to the bishop/eparch. The majority of its members are to be lay persons not in the employ of the diocese/eparchy (see Norm 5 in Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons, 2006). This board is to advise the diocesan/eparchial bishop in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse.
sexual abuse of minors and in his determination of a cleric’s suitability for ministry. It is regularly to review diocesan/eparchial policies and procedures for dealing with sexual abuse of minors. Also, the board can review these matters both retrospectively and prospectively and give advice on all aspects of responses in connection with these cases.

ARTICLE 3. Dioceses/eparchies are not to enter into settlements which bind the parties to confidentiality unless the victim/survivor requests confidentiality and this request is noted in the text of the agreement.

TO GUARANTEE AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS

ARTICLE 4. Dioceses/eparchies are to report an allegation of sexual abuse of a person who is a minor to the public authorities. Dioceses/eparchies are to comply with all applicable civil laws with respect to the reporting of allegations of sexual abuse of minors to civil authorities and cooperate in their investigation in accord with the law of the jurisdiction in question.

Dioceses/eparchies are to cooperate with public authorities about reporting cases even when the person is no longer a minor.

In every instance, dioceses/eparchies are to advise victims of their right to make a report to public authorities and support this right.

ARTICLE 5. We affirm the words of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, in his Address to the Cardinals of the United States and Conference Officers: “There is no place in the priesthood or religious life for those who would harm the young.”

Sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric is a crime in the universal law of the Church (CIC, c. 1395 §2; CCEO, c. 1453 §1). Because of the seriousness of this matter, jurisdiction has been reserved to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (Motu proprio Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela, AAS 93, 2001). Sexual abuse of a minor is also a crime in all civil jurisdictions in the United States.

Diocesan/eparchial policy is to provide that for even a single act of sexual abuse of a minor*—whenever it occurred—which is admitted or established after an appropriate process in accord with canon law, the offending priest or deacon is to be permanently removed from ministry and, if warranted, dismissed from the clerical state. In keeping with the stated purpose of this Charter, an offending priest or deacon is to be offered therapeutic professional assistance both for the purpose of prevention and also for his own healing and well-being.

The diocesan/eparchial bishop is to exercise his power of governance, within the parameters of the universal law of the Church, to ensure that any priest or deacon subject to his governance who has committed even one act of sexual abuse of a minor as described below (see note) shall not continue in ministry.

A priest or deacon who is accused of sexual abuse of a minor is to be accorded the presumption of innocence during the investigation of the allegation and all appropriate steps are to be taken to protect his reputation. He is to be encouraged to retain the assistance of civil and canonical counsel. If the allegation is deemed not substantiated, every step possible is to be taken to restore his good name, should it have been harmed.

In fulfilling this article, dioceses/eparchies are to follow the requirements of the universal law of the Church and of the Essential Norms approved for the United States.

ARTICLE 6. There are to be clear and well-publicized diocesan/eparchial standards of ministerial behavior and appropriate boundaries for clergy and for any other paid personnel and volunteers of the Church in positions of trust who have regular contact with children and young people.

ARTICLE 7. Dioceses/eparchies are to be open and transparent in communicating with the public about sexual abuse of minors by clergy within the confines of respect for the privacy and the reputation of the individuals involved. This is especially so with regard to informing parish and other church communities directly affected by sexual abuse of a minor.

TO ENSURE THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF OUR PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 8. By the authority of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse is renewed, and
it is now constituted the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. It becomes a standing committee of the Conference. Its membership is to include representation from all the episcopal regions of the country, with new appointments staggered to maintain continuity in the effort to protect children and youth.

The Committee is to advise the USCCB on all matters related to child and youth protection and is to oversee the development of the plans, programs, and budget of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection. It is to provide the USCCB with comprehensive planning and recommendations concerning child and youth protection by coordinating the efforts of the Secretariat and the National Review Board.

**ARTICLE 9.** The Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, established by the Conference of Catholic Bishops, is to staff the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People and be a resource for dioceses/eparchies for the implementation of “safe environment” programs and for suggested training and development of diocesan personnel responsible for child and youth protection programs, taking into account the financial and other resources, as well as the population, area, and demographics of the diocese/eparchy.

The Secretariat is to produce an annual public report on the progress made in implementing and maintaining the standards in this *Charter*. The report is to be based on an annual audit process whose method, scope, and cost are to be approved by the Administrative Committee on the recommendation of the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. This public report is to include the names of those dioceses/eparchies which the audit shows are not in compliance with the provisions and expectations of the *Charter*.

As a member of the Conference staff, the Executive Director of the Secretariat is appointed by and reports to the General Secretary. The Executive Director is to provide the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People and the National Review Board with regular reports of the Secretariat’s activities.

**ARTICLE 10.** The whole Church, especially the laity, at both the diocesan and national levels, needs to be engaged in maintaining safe environments in the Church for children and young people.

The Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People is to be assisted by the National Review Board, a consultative body established in 2002 by the USCCB. The Board will review the annual report of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection on the implementation of this *Charter* in each diocese/eparchy and any recommendations that emerge from it, and offer its own assessment regarding its approval and publication to the Conference President.

The Board will also advise the Conference President on future members. The Board members are appointed by the Conference President in consultation with the Administrative Committee and are accountable to him and to the USCCB Executive Committee. Before a candidate is contacted, the Conference President is to seek and obtain, in writing, the endorsement of the candidate’s diocesan bishop. The Board is to operate in accord with the statutes and bylaws of the USCCB and within procedural guidelines to be developed by the Board in consultation with the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People and approved by the USCCB Administrative Committee. These guidelines are to set forth such matters as the Board’s purpose and responsibility, officers, terms of office, and frequency of reports to the Conference President on its activities.

The Board will offer its advice as it collaborates with the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People on matters of child and youth protection, specifically on policies and best practices. The Board and Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People will meet jointly several times a year.

The Board will review the work of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and make recommendations to the Director. It will assist the Director in the development of resources for dioceses.

The Board will offer its assessment of the Causes and Context study to the Conference, along with any recommendations suggested by the study.

**ARTICLE 11.** The President of the Conference is to inform the Holy See of this revised *Charter* to indicate the manner in which we, the Catholic bishops, together with the entire Church in the United States, intend to continue our commitment to the protection of children and young people. The President is also to share with the Holy See the annual reports on the implementation of the *Charter*. 

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**Promise to Protect**

**Pledge to Heal**

2013

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TO PROTECT THE FAITHFUL IN THE FUTURE

ARTICLE 12. Dioceses/eparchies are to maintain “safe environment” programs which the diocesan/eparchial bishop deems to be in accord with Catholic moral principles. They are to be conducted cooperatively with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, volunteers, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people. Dioceses/eparchies are to make clear to clergy and all members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons in positions of trust with regard to children.

ARTICLE 13. Dioceses/eparchies are to evaluate the background of all incardinated and non-incardinated priests and deacons who are engaged in ecclesiastical ministry in the diocese/eparchy and of all diocesan/eparchial parish/school or other paid personnel and volunteers whose duties include ongoing, unsupervised contact with minors. Specifically, they are to utilize the resources of law enforcement and other community agencies. In addition, they are to employ adequate screening and evaluative techniques in deciding the fitness of candidates for ordination (cf. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Program of Priestly Formation [Fifth Edition], 2006, no. 39).

ARTICLE 14. Transfers of clergy who have committed an act of sexual abuse against a minor for residence, including retirement, shall be as in accord with Norm 12 of the Essential Norms. (Cf. Proposed Guidelines on the Transfer or Assignment of Clergy and Religious, adopted by the USCCB, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men [CMSM], the Leadership Conference of Women Religious [LCWR], and the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious [CMSWR] in 1993.)

ARTICLE 15. To ensure continuing collaboration and mutuality of effort in the protection of children and young people on the part of the bishops and religious ordinaries, two representatives of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men are to serve as consultants to the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. At the invitation of the Major Superiors, the Committee will designate two of its members to consult with its counterpart at CMSM. Diocesan/eparchial bishops and major superiors of clerical institutes or their delegates are to meet periodically to coordinate their roles concerning the issue of allegations made against a cleric member of a religious institute ministering in a diocese/eparchy.

ARTICLE 16. Given the extent of the problem of the sexual abuse of minors in our society, we are willing to cooperate with other churches and ecclesial communities, other religious bodies, institutions of learning, and other interested organizations in conducting research in this area.

ARTICLE 17. We commit ourselves to work individually in our dioceses/eparchies and together as a Conference, through the appropriate committees, to strengthen our programs both for initial priestly formation and for the ongoing formation of priests. With renewed urgency, we will promote programs of human formation for chastity and celibacy for both seminarians and priests based upon the criteria found in Pastores Dabo Vobis, the Program of Priestly Formation, the Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests, and the results of the Apostolic Visitation. We will continue to assist priests, deacons, and seminarians in living out their vocation in faithful and integral ways.

CONCLUSION

As we wrote in 2002, “It is within this context of the essential soundness of the priesthood and of the deep faith of our brothers and sisters in the Church that we know that we can meet and resolve this crisis for now and the future.”

We wish to re-affirm once again that the vast majority of priests and deacons serve their people faithfully and that they have the esteem and affection of their people. They also have our love and esteem and our commitment to their good names and well-being.

An essential means of dealing with the crisis is prayer for healing and reconciliation, and acts of reparation for the grave offense to God and the deep wound inflicted upon his holy people. Closely connected to prayer and acts of reparation is the call to holiness of life and the care of the diocesan/eparchial bishop to ensure that he and his priests avail themselves of the proven ways of avoiding sin and growing in holiness of life.
IT IS WITH RELIANCE ON PRAYER AND Penance THAT WE RENEW THE PLEDGES WHICH WE MADE IN THE ORIGINAL CHARTER:

We pledge most solemnly to one another and to you, God’s people, that we will work to our utmost for the protection of children and youth.

We pledge that we will devote to this goal the resources and personnel necessary to accomplish it.

We pledge that we will do our best to ordain to the priesthood and put into positions of trust only those who share this commitment to protecting children and youth.

We pledge that we will work toward healing and reconciliation for those sexually abused by clerics.

Much has been done to honor these pledges. We devoutly pray that God who has begun this good work in us will bring it to fulfillment.

This Charter is published for the dioceses/eparchies of the United States. It is to be reviewed again after two years by the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People with the advice of the National Review Board. The results of this review are to be presented to the full Conference of Bishops for confirmation.

NOTE

* For purposes of this Charter, the offense of sexual abuse of a minor will be understood in accord with the provisions of Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela (SST), article 6, which reads:

§1. The more grave delicts against morals which are reserved to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith are:
1° the delict against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue committed by a cleric with a minor below the age of eighteen years; in this case, a person who habitually lacks the use of reason is to be considered equivalent to a minor.
2° the acquisition, possession, or distribution by a cleric of pornographic images of minors under the age of fourteen, for purposes of sexual gratification, by whatever means or using whatever technology;
§2. A cleric who commits the delicts mentioned above in §1 is to be punished according to the gravity of his crime, not excluding dismissal or deposition.

In view of theCircular Letter from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, dated May 3, 2011, which calls for “mak[ing] allowance for the legislation of the country where the Conference is located,” Section III(g), we will apply the federal legal age for defining child pornography, which includes pornographic images of minors under the age of eighteen, for assessing a cleric’s suitability for ministry and for complying with civil reporting statutes.

If there is any doubt whether a specific act qualifies as an external, objectively grave violation, the writings of recognized moral theologians should be consulted, and the opinions of recognized experts should be appropriately obtained (Canonical Delicts Involving Sexual Misconduct and Dismissal from the Clerical State, 1995, p. 6). Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the diocesan bishop/eparch, with the advice of a qualified review board, to determine the gravity of the alleged act.
APPENDIX B

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR DIOCESES AND EPARCHIES

This questionnaire is designed to survey dioceses and eparchies about credible accusations of abuse and the costs in dealing with these allegations. The results will be used to demonstrate progress in implementing the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and reducing the incidence of sexual abuse within the Church.

All data collected here are entirely confidential. Only national aggregate results will be reported.

ALL DATA REPORTED HERE REFER TO THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR – JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31, 2013.

ALLEGATIONS

NOTE: An allegation is defined as one victim alleging an act or acts of abuse by one alleged perpetrator. Only credible allegations (those that are admitted or established after an appropriate process in accord with canon law) are appropriate for inclusion in this survey.

1. Total number of new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor reported against a priest or deacon in the diocese between January 1 and December 31, 2013. (Do not include clergy that are members of religious institutes as they will be reported by their religious institutes).

2. Of the total number in item 1, the number of allegations that involved only child pornography.

Of the total number in item 1, the number that were first reported to the diocese/eparchy by:

3. Victim.
4. Family member of the victim.
5. Law enforcement.
6. Attorney.
7. Bishop or official from another diocese.
8. Other: ____________________________.

Of the total number in item 1 (excluding the solely child pornography cases), the number of alleged victims that are:

10. Female.

Of the total number in item 1 (excluding the solely child pornography cases), the number of alleged victims in each age category when the alleged abuse began:

11. 0-9.
12. 10-14.
13. 15-17.
Of the total number in item 1, the number that are alleged to have begun in:
Choose only one category for each allegation. (The sum of items 16-30 should equal item 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16. 1954 or earlier</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. 1975-1979.</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. 2000-2004.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. 1955-1959.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. 1980-1984.</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. 2005-2009.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. 1960-1964.</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. 1985-1989.</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. 2010-2012.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. 1965-1969.</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. 2013.</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. 1970-1974.</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. 1995-1999.</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. Time period unknown.</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

__31a__ Total number of new credible allegations received between January 1 and December 31, 2013 that were unsubstantiated or determined to be false by December 31, 2013.

__31b__ Total number of credible allegations received prior to January 1, 2013 that were unsubstantiated or determined to be false between January 1 and December 31, 2013.

**ALLEGED PERPETRATORS**

*NOTE: Include any perpetrators who are or were ordained members of the clergy legitimately serving in or assigned to the diocese or eparchy at the time the credible allegation(s) was/were alleged to have occurred. Do not include clergy that are members of religious institutes as they will be reported by their religious institutes.*

__32__ Total number of priests or deacons against whom new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor have been reported between January 1 and December 31, 2013.

Of the total number in item 32, how many were in each category below at the time of the alleged abuse?
Choose only one category for each alleged perpetrator. (The sum of items 33-38 should equal item 32).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33. Diocesan priests ordained for this diocese or eparchy</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. Diocesan priests incardinated later in this diocese or eparchy</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. Extern diocesan priests from another U.S. diocese serving in this diocese or eparchy</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. Extern diocesan priests from a diocese outside the United States serving in this diocese or eparchy</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. Permanent deacons</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. Other:_________________________</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the total number in item 32, the number that:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39. Have had one or more previous allegations reported against them prior to January 1, 2013</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. Are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. Have been permanently removed or retired from ministry between January 1 and December 31, 2013 based on allegations of abuse</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42. Have been returned to ministry between January 1 and December 31, 2013 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of December 31, 2013)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of December 31, 2013)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Indicate the total number of alleged perpetrators identified prior to January 1, 2013 that:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45. Were permanently removed or retired from ministry between January 1 and December 31, 2013 based on allegations of abuse</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46. Were returned to ministry between January 1 and December 31, 2013 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of December 31, 2013)</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of December 31, 2013)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COSTS

Indicate the approximate total amount of funds expended by the diocese between January 1 and December 31, 2013 for payments as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor (notwithstanding the year in which the allegation was received):

$ __61,086,474__ 49. All settlements paid to victims.
$ __6,144,818__ 50. Payments for therapy for victims (if separate from settlements).
$ __10,443,829__ 51. Payments for support for offenders (including living expenses, legal expenses, therapy, etc.).
$ __28,914,736__ 52. Payments for attorneys’ fees.
$ __2,364,252__ 53. Other (Please report SEC/VAC expenses in item 55):___________________________.

____21% 54. Approximate percentage of the amount in items 49-53 that was covered by diocesan insurance.

$ __108,954,109__ 55. Total amount paid for all child protection efforts (training programs, background checks, etc.).

In the event it is necessary for clarification about the data reported here, please supply the following information:

Name and title of person completing this form:________________________________________________________
Arch/Diocese:_____________________________________Phone:____________________

Thank you for completing this survey.

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), 2300 Wisconsin Ave NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20007
Phone: 202-687-8080 Fax: 202-687-8083 E-mail CARA@georgetown.edu
©CARA 2013, All rights reserved.
This questionnaire is designed to survey religious institutes, societies of apostolic life or the separate provinces thereof and will be used to demonstrate progress in implementing the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and reducing the incidence of sexual abuse within the Church.

All data collected here are entirely confidential. Only national aggregate results will be reported.

ALL DATA REPORTED HERE REFER TO THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR – JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31, 2013.

ALLEGATIONS
NOTE: An allegation is defined as one victim alleging an act or acts of abuse by one alleged perpetrator. Only credible allegations (those that are admitted or established after an appropriate process in accord with canon law) are appropriate for inclusion in this survey.

_94_ 1. Total number of new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor reported against a priest or deacon in the religious institute between January 1 and December 31, 2013. (Only include members of the religious institute who are clergy. Allegations against religious brothers should NOT be reported).

_0_ 2. Of the total number in item 1, the number of allegations that involved only child pornography.

Of the total number in item 1, the number that were first reported to the religious institute by:
Choose only one category for each allegation. (The sum of items 3-9 should equal item 1).

_34_ 3. Victim.

_2_ 4. Family member of the victim.

_1_ 5. Friend of the victim.


_1_ 7. Law enforcement.

_11_ 8. Bishop or other official from a diocese.

_4_ 9. Other:___________________________.

Of the total number in item 1 (excluding the solely child pornography cases), the number of alleged victims that are:

_80_ 10. Male.

_11_ 11. Female.

Of the total number in item 1 (excluding the solely child pornography cases), the number of alleged victims in each age category when the alleged abuse began: (Choose only one category for each allegation).

_10_ 12. 0-9.

_47_ 13. 10-14.

_7_ 14. 15-17.

_5_ 15. Age unknown.
Of the total number in item 1, the number that are alleged to have begun in:
Choose only one category for each allegation. (The sum of items 16-30 should equal item 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1954 or earlier</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955-1959</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-1964</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965-1969</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970-1974</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-1979</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-1984</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985-1989</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-1994</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-1999</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2004</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2009</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2012</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

NOTE: Include any perpetrators who are or were ordained members of the religious clergy legitimately serving in or assigned to a diocese or eparchy or within the religious institute at the time the credible allegation(s) was alleged to have occurred. Include only clergy (NOT RELIGIOUS BROTHERS) that are members of religious institutes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religious priests of this province assigned within the United States</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious priests of this province assigned outside of the United States</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious priests formerly of this province but no longer a member of the religious institute</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious priests not of this province but serving in this province of the religious institute</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deacon members of the religious institute</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the total number in item 32, how many were in each category below at the time of the alleged abuse?
Choose only one category for each alleged perpetrator. (The sum of items 33-38 should equal item 32).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have had one or more previous allegations reported against them prior to January 1, 2013</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have been permanently removed or retired from ministry between January 1 and December 31, 2013 based on allegations of abuse</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have been returned to ministry between January 1 and December 31, 2013 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of December 31, 2013)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of December 31, 2013)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix C: CARA Questionnaire for Religious Institutes 2013

Indicate the total number of alleged perpetrators identified prior to January 1, 2013 that:

10. Were permanently removed or retired from ministry between January 1 and December 31, 2013 based on allegations of abuse.
2. Were returned to ministry between January 1 and December 31, 2013 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.
7. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of December 31, 2013).
1. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of December 31, 2013).

COSTS

Indicate the approximate total amount of funds expended by the religious institute between January 1 and December 31, 2013 for payments as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor (notwithstanding the year in which the allegation was received):

6,103,691. All settlements paid to victims.
509,283. Payments for therapy for victims (if separate from settlements).
2,935,171. Payments for support for offenders (including living expenses, legal expenses, therapy, etc.).
4,499,102. Payments for attorneys’ fees.
363,921. Other (Please report Safe Environment expenses in item 55):_________________________.

6%. Approximate percentage of the amount in items 49-53 that was covered by insurance of the religious institute.

3,311,552. Total amount paid for all child protection efforts (training programs, background checks, etc.).

In the event it is necessary for clarification about the data reported here, please supply the following information:

Name and title of person completing this form:________________________________________________________
Institute:____________________________________ Phone:______________________

__________________________

Thank you for completing this survey.
Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), 2300 Wisconsin Ave NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20007
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A PRAYER for HEALING

VICTIMS OF ABUSE

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.