Belleville Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), issues a formal statement, expressing “profound sorrow that some of our priests were responsible for this abuse under our watch.”

The National Review Board, an expert lay advisory board to the bishops, holds its first meeting.

An independent audit of all dioceses is conducted to assess implementation of the Charter.


Pope Francis creates a tribunal for bishop negligence in clergy sexual abuse cases.

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People is adopted by the USCCB; canonical Essential Norms are also adopted.

Safe environment guidelines require all clerics, employees and volunteers who work with children to be trained on how to prevent and report child sexual abuse.

Pope Benedict XVI meets with victims of abuse in Washington, D.C.

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors is formed by Pope Francis.