



Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY • <http://cara.georgetown.edu>

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March 1, 2009

Cardinal Francis George, OMI, President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Honorable Michael R. Merz, Chair
National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People

Dear Cardinal George and Judge Merz,

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 2008 *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 2007 *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 2008 took place between December 2008 and February 2009. CARA received responses from 194 of the 195 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB and 160 of the 219 clerical and mixed religious institutes of CMSM, for response rates of 99 percent and 73 percent, respectively. CARA then prepared the national level summary tables and graphs of the findings for 2008, with comparisons to 2004 through 2007, 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 2008.

Sincerely,

/Sr. Mary E. Bendyna, RSM
Executive Director

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