

CHAPTER SIX

Recommendations from the 2008 Audit Period

PARISH AUDITS

In order to obtain a better understanding of and to increase the accountability for how the *Charter* is implemented at the parish level, and dioceses/eparchies are encouraged to conduct parish audits—to be carried out either internally by the diocese or externally by The Gavin Group, Inc.—as part of the on-site audit.

INTERNATIONAL PRIESTS

Continue, through the annual audit, to examine the policies and practices of dioceses/eparchies in the matter of background evaluations and safe environment training of international priests. (See the second recommendation made with the 2007 Annual Report, provided again in Chapter 5 of this report.)

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERTISE, AND AVAILABILITY OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATORS

Contact information for the victim assistance coordinators must be readily available and easily obtainable by the public. Finding the name and phone number for the diocesan victim assistance coordinator should not be difficult or challenging for any victim/survivor. To have this information easily identifiable on the

diocesan Web site, in parish bulletins and bulletin boards, through special brochures, and in diocesan newspapers serves two purposes aside from *Charter* compliance: it sends a message to the victims that the Church cares about them, and it reinforces the commitment of the bishops to help heal the pain that has been caused by clergy sex abuse.

Additionally, to aid those victims who call when the coordinator is not available, it would be most helpful for the message on the diocesan/eparchial phone line to clearly identify the office/person as the location where assistance is available, to indicate the name of the victim assistance coordinator, and to make a short statement advising the victim that the diocese cares about his or her healing.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERTISE OF DIOCESAN/EPARCHIAL PERSONNEL CHARGED WITH IMPLEMENTATION

The diocese/eparchy needs to make sure the person responsible for seeing that the *Charter* is fully and completely implemented in the diocese/eparchy possesses the necessary skills and receives the resources and cooperation of all diocesan/eparchial personnel.