

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

This is the sixth Annual Report compiled by the USCCB Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection of the results of audits conducted by The Gavin Group, Inc., to ascertain diocesan/eparchial compliance with the bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. The 2008 audits began a three-year auditing cycle: each year, one-third of the dioceses/eparchies receive a full on-site audit, and the remaining two-thirds of the dioceses/eparchies participate in a collection, compilation, and review of data. The goal is to have every diocese/eparchy receive at least one full on-site audit every three years. In 2008, 64 dioceses/eparchies participated in full on-site audits, while 124 dioceses/eparchies participated in a data collection audit.

Additionally, the bishops of 17 dioceses consented to have the auditors conduct detailed interviews in parishes to determine the extent of *Charter* understanding and compliance at the parish level. The parishes were selected by agreement between the dioceses and auditors, with consideration being given to parishes from various types of locations (such as urban, suburban, and rural) as well as those with schools and those without. Interviews included the pastor, school principal if applicable, and staff member(s) designated to coordinate the safe environment program training. Most interviews were conducted in person, although some were conducted by telephone. A listing of those dioceses can be found in Chapter 2, "2008 Methodology and Limitations."

For various reasons, seven of the dioceses/eparchies refused to be audited:

- Diocese of Baker
- Diocese of Lincoln
- Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle of Detroit for Chaldeans
- Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle of San Diego for Chaldeans
- Eparchy of Newton for Melkites

- Eparchy of St. Josaphat of Parma for Ukrainians
- Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark for Syrians

Because the *Charter* in Article 9 requires the audits, these two dioceses and five eparchies are not in compliance with the *Charter*.

Four dioceses that did receive audits were found to be non-compliant with the Article sections noted below. All but one diocese were able to remedy the non-compliance prior to the end of 2008. The Diocese of Tulsa continues to work toward full compliance with providing safe environment training to children in accord with Article 12.

Diocese of Lansing	Article 12: volunteers	Remedied 12-1-08
Diocese of Las Cruces	Article 2: review board	Remedied 12-3-08
	Article 12: children, employees, volunteers	Remedied 12-3-08
	Article 13: volunteers and employees	Remedied 12-3-08
Archdiocese of San Francisco	Article 12: children	Remedied 12-19-08
Diocese of Tulsa	Article 12: children	Not yet remedied

The Church has done much to keep children safe. However, we all bear responsibility for ensuring that children are safe and are not harmed—in homes, schools, churches; on playgrounds; at the mall—wherever children are. This is not an area where an adult can say, "It is not my business." Catholics are called to be watchkeepers for the protection of the life, dignity, and safety of little children. And to that end, the responsibility will never cease.