



Additional Actions 2011

Diocese of Albany, New York

1. The diocese re-designed and printed new brochures that not only describe services available for victims, but also describe the Safe Environment measures taken by the diocese. Victims who have seen it say they appreciate the fact that the brochure starts out with an apology from the Bishop. The brochure is also on the web site got to <http://www.rcda.org/policy/PDF/Working%20Together.pdf>
2. The diocese also printed and distributed flyers that tell how to report suspected abuse to all parishes and schools for posting. This flyer is also available on the diocesan website: http://www.rcda.org/Offices/human_resources/PDF/RespondingToAllegation.pdf

Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania

- A Safe Environment Awareness Program for International Priests video was purchased from VIRTUS. The Diocese of Allentown has two DVDs for viewing by arriving international priests. The Diocese also purchased the ability for international priests to view the video online prior to entering the United States. We have not used this feature yet.
- Many diocesan schools and parish programs (such as youth groups, CCD/PREP programs and CYO) are involved in activities outside the immediate area, requiring an overnight stay. Overnight Trip Guidelines for Chaperones were developed and distributed to all Pastors, Principals, Administrators and local Safe Environment Coordinators in June 2011.
- Spiritual Directors are becoming more popular with diocesan parishes. Men and women religious and lay parishioners are offering their services for spiritual support and direction. Some are receiving referrals from the parish, other are actually occupying office space in diocesan facilities. The ensure that these Spiritual Directors are providing their services within the teachings of the Catholic church and have been certified through a diocesan recognized program, guidelines and a contract were developed to address these issues.
- The Victim's Assistance Coordinator pamphlets that were updated and distributed last year in English were updated and distributed in Spanish, Vietnamese and Portuguese pamphlets.

Diocese of Amarillo, Texas

The West Texas Catholic Newspaper, periodically runs articles about safe environment, in addition with every edition they run in both Spanish and English, the contact telephone numbers for the Victim Assistance Coordinator.

In October the Catholic Radio dedicates radio time to Safe Environment matters.

The Faith Formation Director, on occasion, prints a newsletter reminding all catechists of diocesan requirements for safe environment training.

The Diocesan Website is constantly being updated to make it more user friendly.

The Safe Environment Office has been working on bringing a new Children's Safe Environment program for parish and Catholic school use. This program is from the Salt Lake City Archdiocese titled "Right Relationships".

A new "attendance" sheet per class was initiated requiring specific information for diocesan records.

Diocese of Arlington, Virginia

MASSES TO PRAY FOR HEALING FOR VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

In June 2004, His Excellency, Bishop Paul S. Loverde, offered the first Mass to Pray for Healing for Victims/Survivors of Sexual Abuse in the Diocese of Arlington. These Masses are celebrated for victims/survivors as well as the faithful who stand in solidarity with them. They are held at different locations each time they are celebrated so that we reach all areas of the diocese. The Diocese of Arlington has celebrated a total of 32 Masses for this intention. The readings, music, and Prayers of the Faithful have been specially selected to offer healing to victims/survivors. One of the Victim Assistance Coordinators speaks briefly at the end of Mass to encourage victims to come forward and report. The Masses have been followed by a simple reception, and those who attend can speak with the Bishop, the Victim Assistance Coordinators, and the other priests in attendance. We estimate that 2,324 people have attended these Masses since their inception.

During this audit period, the Masses were held at:

- Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Gainesville on October 19, 2010.
- Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Arlington on March 14, 2011.
- Our Lady of the Blue Ridge Catholic Church, Madison on June 8, 2011.

PRAYER SERVICES FOR HEALING FOR VICTIMS SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

The Diocese of Arlington has also hosted a series of Prayer Services to Pray for Healing for Victims/Survivors of Sexual Abuse since April 2005. Reverend Mark Mealey, O.S.F.S., Vicar General, has been the main celebrant of most of the 20 Prayer Services for Healing for Victims/Survivors. The readings and Prayers of the Faithful are the same as those chosen for the Masses to pray for healing. The Prayer Services include a survivor's testimony of his/her efforts to heal from the effects of sexual abuse. The Diocese of Arlington has three individuals who work with our program who, after consultation with their treatment providers, have volunteered to speak at various events. The Prayer Services have been followed by a simple reception, and those who attend can speak with the Vicar General, the Victim Assistance Coordinators, and the survivor who spoke during the service and the other priests in attendance. We estimate that 329 people have attended the Prayer Services since their inception.

The Prayer Services during the last audit period have been held at:

- Saint Ambrose Catholic Church, Annandale on September 11, 2010.
- Saint Raymond Catholic Church, Springfield on December 4, 2010.
- Saint Clare of Assisi Catholic Church, Clifton on April 9, 2011.

EVENINGS WITH BISHOP LOVERDE AT DOMINICAN RETREAT

Recovery from the wounds of sexual abuse is often a long and arduous journey. One of the lessons that we have learned in the Diocese of Arlington is that our Bishop's ministry to victims/survivors at the Dominican Retreat in McLean has been most fruitful. Victims/Survivors tell us that the shared dinners,

discussion group and prayer service have meant a great deal to them and have truly assisted with their healing. Bishop Loverde continues to invite all victims/survivors of sexual abuse and a support person to a series of support group meetings at the Dominican Retreat in McLean, Virginia.

He offers encouragement to those in attendance in their spiritual and psychological struggles from the pain of abuse. At the end of the evening, the Bishop gives the victims/survivors and their support person a memento of the evening. This year the Support Group Meetings were held at Dominican Retreat on October 6, 2010, March 28, 2011 and May 9, 2011. Fifty nine people attended the support Group Meetings this past year. A total of 313 people- both victims/survivors and support people- have attended the various programs at Dominican Retreat since their inception in 2005.

RETREAT FOR VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

On September 15, 2010, the Diocese of Arlington held its second spiritual retreat for victims/survivors of sexual abuse and support persons. The retreat was held at Saint Ann Catholic Church in Arlington, and it lasted from 9:30 until 3:30. Rev. Lewis Fiorelli, O.S.F.S. was the Retreat Master. He spoke on "God is Love and I am Loveable". The day consisted of two morning talks, lunch with Bishop Loverde, a sharing support group and blessing by Bishop, an afternoon rosary, and a closing prayer. Twenty one victim/survivors, support people and staff were in attendance. Response to the Retreats from our victims/survivors has been very positive. We have added this service to our yearly outreach to victims/survivors and are in the process of planning our third retreat for September 10, 2011.

ADVISORY BOARD

In 2003, after the adoption of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, Bishop Loverde made the decision to appoint an Advisory Board in addition to the required Review Board. The Advisory Board meets regularly to discuss the efforts and programming of the Offices of Child and Youth Protection and Victim Assistance and to offer a variety of perspectives. Composed of six lay persons, a Diocesan priest, and a sister of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, the Board reviews the progress of the offices in meeting the needs of outreach and protection.

The Advisory Board met on the following dates this past year:

- September 20, 2010
- January 18, 2011 (in conjunction with Review Board)
- May 23, 2011

VICTIMS/SURVIVORS PLANNING GROUP

In an effort to be responsive to the needs of victims/survivors of sexual abuse, the Diocese of Arlington formed a small Victims/Survivors Planning Group. The goal of this group is to give feedback to the Bishop, Vicar General and Victim Assistance Coordinators on the various efforts made by the diocese to reach out to victims/survivors and to encourage their psychological and spiritual healing. Over this past audit year, the group:

- Met with Teresa Kettelkamp and Mary Jane Doerr of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection to share their thoughts about victim assistance and its relevance to their healing – November 9, 2010
- At the request of Teresa Kettelkamp, met with Monsignor Hans Kast, Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Santiago, Chile to discuss helpful outreach to victims/survivors of sexual abuse – February 8, 2011.
- Met with Diane Knight, Chair of the National Review Board, to discuss helpful efforts toward healing from sexual abuse – March 21, 2011.

PRIEST WORKSHOP

The Diocese of Arlington is blessed to have a number of priests willing to provide spiritual assistance to victims/survivors. These priests offer an important spiritual component to healing for our victims/survivors. Each year, the Office of Victim Assistance has presented a workshop on abuse and trauma. This year, we changed our focus and Father Louis Fiorelli, O.S.F.S. presented a training on providing spiritual assistance to victims/survivors. In addition to the presentation, we served lunch and then engaged the priests in a request for their feedback on the work of victim assistance in the Diocese of Arlington. We invited one of our victims/survivors to join us for this discussion. She shared some of her thoughts about her healing from sexual abuse. The priest provided us with some feedback based on their experiences with our victims. The Workshop was held on April 14, 2011 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Vienna.

SCOPE OF OUTREACH TO SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

- Beginning in 2004, Bishop Loverde has encouraged the Victim Assistance Coordinators in outreach efforts to victims/survivors of incest and violence on the streets in addition to serving those who were abused by clergy of the Catholic Church.
- During the recent audit period, the Victim Assistance Coordinators have served a total of 90 persons, 71 victims/survivors of abuse and 19 family members or support persons.
- This includes 7 new reports of victims/survivors abused as children by clergy as well as 1 family member receiving outreach and victim assistance. The abuse happened in this country as well as one other diocese in the world.
- A total of 9 victims/survivors of adult abuse by clergy and 5 of their family members were provided outreach and victim assistance by the Diocese of Arlington this past year. A number of these victims were abused in other dioceses, presently live in the Diocese of Arlington, and are taking advantage of the opportunities for healing provided by Arlington.
- A total of 43 victims/survivors who were abused through incest and violence on the streets and 9 of their family members sought assistance from the diocese.

COMMUNICATION

- The VACs sent color copies of the schedule to all pastors for their parishes.
- The VACs wrote letters to pastors whose parishes are near the ones hosting events. The letters asked the pastors to promote the masses and prayer services in their area, both in the pulpit announcements and in the bulletin.
- The VACs sent a letter to those victims/survivors willing to receive mail that included a copy of the scheduled Masses, Prayer Services, Support Group Meetings and Retreat for the 2011-2012 year.
- The VACs participate in the Diocesan blog and have submitted blog posts about the work of Victim Assistance.
- The VAC's contribute to the Annual Child Protection Report published yearly in the Arlington Catholic Herald. This report includes a child protection report, victim assistance report, Advisory Board Report and a reflection from one of our victim/survivors about their healing from abuse. This report is also posted on the web site of the Diocese of Arlington to be available to those seeking information about our program.

PUBLICITY

The VACs placed advertisements in local newspapers to encourage victims to come forward and report abuse. This has been the eighth year that the VACs have placed advertisements in both large secular

DC-Metro and local Northern Virginia newspapers. During this audit period, the advertisement ran in The Washington Post, The Washington Times, The Fredericksburg Free Lance Star, and 14 editions of the Connection Newspapers in local jurisdictions of Northern Virginia as well as the Arlington Catholic Herald, in the hope that victims/survivors will be encouraged to contact the Victim Assistance Coordinators.

Additionally, events are published on the Diocesan website (www.arlingtondiocese.org), on the Diocesan blog, on the Facebook page, and on Twitter. These social media outlets are used in conjunction with traditional media to publicize our program and our events.

CREDIBLY ACCUSED PRIESTS FROM OTHER DIOCESES

When we become aware that a priest from another diocese who was credibly accused is now residing in our diocese, the Chancellor and General Counsel notifies law enforcement in that locality of his presence and also advises pastors of nearby parishes so that they are aware in the event he attempts to volunteer for activities with children. In addition, a notation is made in the dioceses child protection data base that this individual is not eligible to work or volunteer with children.

Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia

The Way Retreats

7/9/2010 – 7/11/2010 *The Way*: A Healing Retreat for Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse

First retreat for male survivors of sexual abuse – we had three attendees – none were survivors of clergy abuse. The men who attended were grateful for the experience, especially the time they spent with others who have experienced abuse.

10/8/2010 – 10/10/2010 *The Way*: A Healing Retreat for Female Survivors of Abuse

Second retreat for female survivors of abuse (opened it up to any type of abuse this year, not only sexual abuse) – we had ten attendees – one was a survivor of clergy abuse from another diocese. The women who attended were grateful for the experience, especially the time they spent with others who have experienced the abuse. We have a long waiting list for the next retreat already and are planning to add a second women's retreat in 2012.

The Way is a 3-day healing retreat crafted around the Stations of the Cross with opportunities to receive the Eucharist, Reconciliation and the Sacrament of Healing. The objective of *The Way* retreat is to bring about the beginning or continuation of healing from the scars of abuse. The main message of this retreat is that we must “go through it to get to it”...we must go through the pain to get to peace. It is common for victims of trauma to try and heal by skirting around the main issues in order to minimize the pain involved in healing. This only perpetuates their suffering. As they walk with Christ on *The Way* to Calvary and see how He braved the pain to bring healing to the world, they will begin to see the only way to true healing is through their pain, not around it. Toward the end of the retreat, focus is put on reaching out to others who have suffered trauma as a way of giving our suffering purpose and invites further healing at a deeper level. Those who attend this retreat will be well on the road to healing and enriched with an experience of the love of Christ that many have never known; they will leave the retreat with a desire to share that love with neighbors and fellow parishioners.

Trauma Model Counseling Groups

July – November 2010: GROUP 1

We had 8 female participants – two were survivors of church personnel abuse (one clergy abuse, one religious sister abuse). The women who attended were grateful for the experience and the time spent with others who experienced abuse. The survivors of church personnel: one returned to Mass and his having her son baptized and set to receive his First Communion; the other was a long suffered from severe eczema on her legs – it cleared up half way through the 9 weeks of group.

February – June 2010: GROUP 2

We had 6 female participants – none were survivors of church personnel abuse. Two were also on The Way Retreat. The women who attended were grateful for the experience and the time spent with others who experienced abuse. At the end of the group, all were participating in situations that before the group they would have avoided.

Our Trauma Recovery Groups utilize the Trauma Recovery Program (similar groups have been initiated in the dioceses of Kalamazoo, Phoenix and Los Angeles) which is designed to encourage individuals who are debilitated by any type of trauma to live effectively in the present rather than focusing on the recovery of repressed memories. The Trauma Recovery Program is based on the core concepts and skills of the Trauma Model which is an internationally recognized and research-based model for effective therapy with survivors of childhood abuse and/or neglect developed by psychiatrist Colin A. Ross, M.D. Our program is not limited to survivors of church personnel abuse but is open to anyone who is experiencing symptoms of post-traumatic stress that has lingered for months after a current traumatic event or occur later in life from traumatic childhood events (i.e. victims of natural disasters, victims of violent crime, crash survivors, physical abuse victims, and witnesses to trauma) including the trauma of sexual abuse. Survivors of abuse by church personnel are given priority to participate. Similar groups have been initiated in the dioceses of Kalamazoo, Phoenix and Los Angeles with continuing success.

Cry to Heaven Prayer Program

Christ calls all of us to reach out to the victims of abuse in their time of need. *“Where two or more are gathered in my name, there I am among them.”* Through this prayer program, the church’s faithful are asked to pray for victims of abuse, especially through Eucharistic Adoration Programs and Rosary/Prayer Groups. In this way, we let the victims and survivors of abuse know that they are surrounded by the prayers of their brothers and sisters in Christ...and that He is there among us too. This is another way Christ promised to be with us always.

We have 31 parishes participating in this program and we recently completed our 7th year of *Cry to Heaven* at our annual Eucharistic Congress where over 30,000 participating Catholics are given the opportunity to pray in a special way for victims of abuse in the event’s Adoration Chapel.

Diocese of Austin, Texas

This audit year saw the introduction of a new set of procedural guidelines for how to do safe environment work at the parish/school level in the Diocese of Austin. This information had never been gathered into one document and thus the EIM 101 Procedures manual was created with sub sections for pastors, Catholic school principals, site administrators, DREs and youth ministers. It is used as a companion to our policy document with more specific details of “how to do” the required tasks to ensure compliance at the site. The document includes forms to be used by the site administrator, and

verified by the pastor or principal, to tabulate and document compliance efforts at the site. This information is sent to the EIM office to assist in the annual audit.

Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- The Office of Child and Youth Protection conducts on-site audits of every church, school and youth-serving program of the diocese every year.
- Copies of the newly-designed DIOBROCYP brochure were disseminated to every parish, school and program serving youth in the diocese.
- Continuance of the Child Protection Continuing Education Resource Program for active volunteers and employees.
- Continue to conduct mandatory annual policy and procedure training seminars for appointed parish, school and program Child Protection Site Coordinators.

Diocese of Belleville, Illinois

- The Diocese of Belleville continues to require annual training for all Employees/Volunteers who have substantial contact with children. The topic for 2010-2011 was Professional Boundaries and Behaviors. The course was mainly conducted online, but there were off-line options available. Locations could choose to do this as a group or individually. The course was made available through Proud to Protect (formerly Safe and Sacred).
- We have also continued to require annual training for our children/youth in our Catholic Schools and Parish Schools of Religion regarding child safety. The training is age-appropriate and builds upon concepts from year to year.
- The Office of Child Protection once again completed reviews of parishes and schools during this audit period. The process has continued to help locations recognize any deficiencies and has created a larger awareness of the importance of child protection. It has also given locations in-person contact with the Director of Child Protection so that any questions/concerns can be addressed while on-site. The schools that are completed are done in conjunction with the Office of Education and the State Board of Education.

Diocese of Biloxi, Mississippi

- 1. The “Commitment to Protect Our Young People” program has been added to the curriculums of both the Permanent Diaconate Program and the New Wine Program. This is in addition to the regularly scheduled training programs held on an annual basis at the Diocesan Pastoral Center.
- 2. The “Diocese of Biloxi Child Protection Catechesis”, approved by Most Reverend Roger P. Morin, now includes materials for Spanish-speaking populations, grades K – 6.

Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama

- 1.) Bi-monthly announcements in diocese Catholic paper the “One Voice” concerning the reporting of child and youth sexual abuse.
- 2.) An active review board that has updated policy and provides 100% case reviews.

- 3.) Increase in number of review board members. Vocational fields include law, clergy, sociology, and psychiatry.
- 4.) Revise and update flow chart for reporting offenses.

Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut

The Director of Safe Environments participated in a radio program called *Thoughts for the Week* recorded August 11th, 2010 on Safe Environment programs in the Diocese of Bridgeport. The radio show was aired locally on a AM and FM stations and nationally on the ABC Satellite Network. During Child Abuse Prevention Month 2011, the Diocese of Bridgeport distributed pamphlets and articles to schools and parishes through our diocesan website and Bridge communication. Information and resources including links to the specific resources offered by the U.S.C.C.B. Office of Child and Youth Protection are posted on our diocesan website each April and remain on the website throughout the year.

The Director of Safe Environments and Victim Assistance Coordinator attended The New England Safe Environment and Victim Assistance Conference in Burlington, VT from March 1st – March 6th, 2011. The victim assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Bridgeport attended the Regional New England Victim Assistance and Safe Environment meeting during the fall 2010 and completed a three day course on (M-TREM) Men's Trauma Recovery and Empowerment Model as part of continuing education and professional development.

New DVD's and updated training materials were purchased for all diocesan VIRTUS facilitators to include training on social networking safety and safe use of technology.

Efforts continue to make the delivery of the Safe Environment training as convenient as possible for schools and parishes. Each year the Director of Safe Environments conducts three train-the-trainer opportunities. Currently there are 70 volunteer VIRTUS facilitators in the Diocese of Bridgeport and together they conducted over 2,000 adult and youth awareness trainings since 2003.

The Safe Environment awareness training program in the Diocese of Bridgeport includes Independent Contractors and Vendors. The Diocese of Bridgeport goes above and beyond the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* by including all volunteers, employees, vendors and independent contractors not just those in direct or routine contact with children. This increases the number of trained and screened personnel across the Diocese. Over 400 community businesses and vendors participated in Safe Environment programs since 2003 and more than 1000 of these company employees attended training.

All contracts and service agreements with the Diocese of Bridgeport include Safe Environment requirements. The Background check policy in the Diocese of Bridgeport is inclusive of Independent Contractors. All Independent Contractors are required to screen any person they will bring onto the property. They agree to conduct a criminal background check and that they agree not to send any employee who has a crime against children or a sex crime to work or volunteer for the diocese. Several companies have been assisted by our Human Resource department with developing a background check process during the current audit review period.

Safe Environment training is made available to anyone interested in child safety in the community including parishioners, parents, grandparents and outside community groups.

The Director of Safe Environments and the Director of Human resources meets with new Directors of Religious Education, School Principals, School Business Managers, Youth Ministers, VIRTUS facilitators and Local Safe environment coordinators to assist parishes with continued support for the programs and to provide annual program updates.

Parish Safe Environment planning committees were a part of many parish events including parish carnivals, fairs, and in the planning of retreats and trips. Many parishes had informational booths and materials on Safe Environments available throughout their events.

Safe Environment training and educational materials are made available to the public and information on reporting suspected abuse of a minor are available 24 hours a day through the Diocesan website www.bridgeportdiocese.com. The diocesan website has training materials posted in several languages and contains links to The Child Lures and Personal Safety training programs and anyone may order parent guides, training manual and video directly from the childluresprevention website. A sample of the curriculum k-12 and important safety information is available at www.childluresprevention.com.

Safe environment training sessions are offered to parents with children enrolled in religious education at the parishes. This is in addition to the personal safety programs that take place in their public schools. The Safe Environment Office works collaboratively with a local community sexual abuse prevention program which is a member of The Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Centers and is one of the largest providers of child sexual abuse prevention programs in public schools throughout Fairfield County. We have the opportunity to preview these child safety programs to ensure that they are consistent with Diocesan Safe Environment programs. One program provided to parents and adults in the community is modeled after the program we use in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Several of the community educators in the Bridgeport regional office are also trained as VIRTUS facilitators for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Additional child safety programs are organized by the Catholic schools that go above and beyond the required Safe Environment program. Each school principal is requested to annually submit a description of any additional Safe Environment programs they provide to students. During this current audit review period additional personal safety include the following: Netsmartz.org.; Healthy relationships Workshop; Echo Self-Esteem Program; Jason Everett, Abstinence Program; Officer Phil; DARE; Internet Safety Training; Monroe Police Department Program on Internet Safety; EMS Awareness, Safety and Injury Prevention; Bullying and Social Aggression Program for staff and parents. A Safety presentation was conducted by Rich Colangelo (Senior Assistant State's Attorney) "Consequences of an Online Life" and "Understanding the World Your Teen Lives In" Included topics of Cyberbullying, Sexting, Online Predators, Protecting your digital reputation, Decision Making, Habits, and Substance abuse. Many schools have technology departments that incorporate internet safety in the curriculum.

The Child Lures Think First & Stay Safe program and the Personal Safety program for High School Youth are delivered by one trained counselor from Catholic Charities. The Diocese of Bridgeport employs one counselor to train parents, children and youth in grades K-12 on Safe Environments. Training is repeated in every grade annually and includes cyber safety, abduction prevention and bullying awareness in addition to sexual abuse prevention. By using one trainer we are able to ensure a consistent and age appropriate message to students and parents feel comfortable being able to meet with the trainer in advance. The feedback from parents has been very positive.

Every parent with a child enrolled in our Catholic Schools receives training materials in advance of classroom instruction so that Safe Environment training begins at home. This includes a parent training guide, informational brochure and a parent letter notifying them of the training schedule. In the Diocese of Bridgeport parents are always provided the opportunity to attend a live preview session of all children's safety training programs in addition to VIRTUS which is required for parents who volunteer in our schools. Several of our school principals ask all parents to attend VIRTUS training at the time they enroll their child regardless of whether they plan to work or volunteer.

Language Translations and Bi-Lingual Facilitators: VIRTUS trainings are available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Polish, and French/Creole. Modified trainings have been provided for persons with learning disabilities and videos are closed captioned.

Two Tri-fold brochures are available for adults and youth on our diocesan website that highlight key points from VIRTUS training and from the Personal Safety training provided in the Catholic schools. The brochures provide contact information for reporting suspected abuse of a minor to the CT Department of Children and Family Services hotline and to the Victim Assistance Coordinator in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Local Safe Environment Coordinators are in place in schools, parishes and Catholic Charities programs with online access to the VIRTUS database. Coordinators are able to log into the VIRTUS database to locally track Safe Environment requirements for their employees and volunteers. Parish Soft program has been implemented in parishes throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport. The SEP program manager which is a program of Parish Soft is currently being reviewed for ways to further assist parishes with tracking Safe Environment compliance at the parish level.

Communication: The Fairfield County Catholic Newspaper provides a column on Safe Environment updates and educational information on child safety. Articles were published during this audit review period including an article on the Causes and Context study.

A Self-Audit process is in place to locally monitor and track training and background check progress annually. Reports are provided by Pastors, Directors of Religious Education and Local Parish Safe Environment Coordinators and the data is compared with VIRTUS training records and with background check reports in the Office of Human Resources to be sure that background checks are active at each location. All background checks are processed locally by schools and parishes and all results return to one source, the Diocesan Director of Human Resources.

The Diocese of Bridgeport conducts onsite financial audits at the parishes and our insurance carrier conducts routine inspections of parish property. The Office of Finance and our insurance carrier periodically check that parishes have active Safe Environment training programs and background checks. Any issues noted at the time of the site visits are reported to Safe Environments and Human Resources. The Bridge is a weekly online mailing provided to all Pastors, Directors of Religious Education, School Principals, Program Directors, Administrators, school and parish offices and Catholic Charities programs. The Bridge includes a section on Safe Environment training opportunities, program updates and news. The Bridge also includes U.S.C.C.B. warnings and notifications concerning members of the clergy who are not in good standing. This newsletter is sent to parishes from the Bishops Office and is posted online at www.bridgeportdiocese.com.

Additional training: Safe Environment information is communicated during all new employee orientations. All new principals and catholic school teachers receive training on CT Mandated reporting laws and procedures. Principals meet with the Director of Safe Environments at least once annually and are provided with updates and instructions to review mandated reporting procedures with school employees. The Director of Safe Environments is certified by the State of CT Department of Children and Family Services training academy as a facilitator of Mandatory Reporting laws and guidelines for professionals who work with children.

The Human Resource Department has in place procedures for the safe storage and processing of all documentation related to Safe Environments and background checks. This policy is communicated to all parish locations and assists volunteers in the prevention of identity theft.

The Safe Environment Office issues a card and certificate of attendance to every VIRTUS participant containing instructions for training, background checks and a link of where participants may download the Code of Conduct and Sexual Misconduct Policy. This card describes all Safe Environment requirements and serves as immediate proof of awareness training attendance following a live VIRTUS session. This card also provides the 24- hour Victim Assistance phone number and the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline number.

Diocese of Brooklyn, New York

From the Office of Secretary for Human and Information Resources & Safe Environment Office:

The Safe Environment Office was given a vendors' table at the annual teachers' instructional material fair in October of 2010. This was an excellent opportunity to distribute Child Lures Prevention material and answer questions regarding the program.

Safe Environment manuals were produced and distributed in the fall of 2010 to every parish, school and religious education program. The manual includes the Safe Environment mandates, procedures, forms and frequently asked questions.

In the fall of 2010, annual meetings were held for Virtus Facilitators and the Parish Safe Environment Coordinators. There were four meetings for each group held in different areas of the diocese. These meetings were scheduled at various times to allow availability of a meeting for all volunteers. Safe Environment manuals were distributed. After these meetings, Virtus Facilitator lists were updated to reflect continued selection of appropriate facilitators.

A Child Lures Prevention Presenter meeting, as well as a CLP presenters training, was held in the spring of 2010. The meeting gave opportunity for discussion of what the presenters were encountering when presenting the Child Lures Prevention program. Six new presenters were trained.

In conjunction with the Schools Office, a Child Lures Prevention Training session was given for teachers. Forty teachers attended the training.

A system has been established to give pastors/administrators bi-annual Safe Environment reports for each parish. The reports give status updates for each parish with regard to compliance.

The VIRTUS – Safe Environment Awareness Program for International Priests has been adopted by the Diocese. The program was shown at the Spring 2011 International Priest Day of Prayer.

The Secretary for Human and Information Resources met with police officers of the NYC School Safety Anti-Terrorism division to review procedures in the Catholic Schools and seek suggestions from us to improve the city's process. After receiving a full orientation to our background screening process and Virtus database system, the consensus was that a city wide notification of sex offenders (Megan's Law) vs. the local precinct notification would be the most helpful in a dense area like Brooklyn and Queens.

The Diocese of Brooklyn has established a number of services to assist victims of clergy abuse. These programs include a toll-free reporting number, psychological counseling for the individual and his/her family, spiritual support, ongoing contact with victims, networking with an appropriate means of assistance where the victim now lives, meeting with the diocesan bishop, financial assistance and prayer services for healing.

From the Office of Vicar for Communications:

In addition to the Safe Environment Outreach, the diocese uses its media division to keep constituents informed about the sexual abuse crisis in the Church and the efforts the Diocese of Brooklyn takes to provide a safe environment.

For instance, when a priest or deacon is removed, a Healing Team is present at the parish for the announcement. A press release is prepared based on the contents of the letter written by the diocesan bishop for publication in our diocesan newspaper, *The Tablet*, for placement on our diocesan website (www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org) and for media distribution. It remains on the home page of the diocesan website for a lengthy period of time. Additionally, there are two programs on our diocesan television station, New Evangelization Television (NET NY), *In the Arena* and *Currents*. Each platform addressed topics with the viewing audience throughout the fiscal year. This approach proved to be a valuable educative tool for our diocese.

The items include:

2011 Items in *The Tablet*:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
Pope Simplifies Norms for Sex Abuse Cases	7-24-2010
Diocese Found in Compliance with Children Protection Audit	10-9-2010
Abuse Crisis Demands Transparency of Church	10-9-2010
Pope Stunned By Sex Abuse in Church	11-27-2010
Dioceses Comply with Sex Abuse Audit	4-16-2011
A Valuable Tool to Fight Sexual Abuse	6-11-2011
John Jay Report Findings Misinterpreted	7-9-2011

2011 Items on *Currents* & *In the Arena*:

Thursday, July 15, 2010 – *Currents* speaks with Rev. Msgr. Guy Massie about the Vatican releasing new rules for handling serious crimes, including the sexual abuse of children by priests.

Saturday, September 18, 2010 – During NET's special coverage of Pope Benedict XVI's trip to the United Kingdom, Matt McClure discusses the Pope meeting with victims of sexual abuse by priests with our guest analysts, Rev. Msgr. John Strykowski and Catholic blogger Rocco Palmo.

Friday, January 7, 2011 – *Currents* reports on the dismissal of a man from his volunteer position at a Queens Catholic school because he violated the Diocesan Code of Conduct by engaging in inappropriate banter on a social networking site.

Sunday, March 6, 2011 – *In the Arena* discussed sex abuse in the Church.

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 – *Currents* speaks with Rev. Msgr. Kieran Harrington, Vicar for Communications for the Diocese of Brooklyn, about the release of the John Jay report on abuse by priests.

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 – *Currents* airs a report about the Virtus program in the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Thursday, May 19, 2011 – *Currents* interviews the Sex Crimes Bureau Chief for the Kings County District Attorney's office on how the Diocese of Brooklyn and the DA's office work together to combat sexual abuse by priests.

Friday, May 20, 2011 – *Currents* interviews the Diocese of Brooklyn's Assistance Coordinator and a member of the Diocesan Review Board on where victims and survivors of abuse can turn.

Sunday, May 22, 2011 – *In the Arena* discussed the John Jay Report: An Update on Sex Abuse in the Church.

Wednesday, June 15, 2011 – *Currents* interviews Brooklyn Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio from Seattle. A good portion of the discussion focuses on the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Diocese of Burlington, Vermont

1. CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH

During our Virtus Facilitator Summit in September 2010, one of the facilitators who is also a Director of Religious Education (DRE) discussed an obstacle that she was experiencing with her religious education (RE) students and parents.

The DRE works in an inner city parish that has changed significantly over the years. She was new to this parish as DRE and found that a large percentage of the parishioners that she was involved with were refugees from Africa. The parents wanted their children to learn prayers and receive sacraments but it was clear there was a language barrier. The children understood English and were fairly fluent but the parents had almost no understanding of the English language. The DRE found that she needed the children to translate to their parents.

I researched the concept of Conversational English that is being used around the country for refugees. It was thought that local college students might be interested in helping with the project. I proposed my idea to the Dean of Peace and Justice Studies at St. Michael's College, Dr. Laurie Gagne, in Colchester, VT. I asked her if it might be possible to pair up students with the African refugees to teach conversational English. The students could perform this function for course credits or as a community service project. After considering the proposal, the Dr. Gagne felt that this would be a great project for her class beginning in the spring semester. After discussing this with the Pastor, who was very

supportive, we made contact with the de facto leader of the Burundian community, who speaks English and could translate our project to his community. We also partnered with MOVE, a community service organization at St. Michael's College to provide child care for parents in the program.

We initiated the Conversational English Program in January 2011. The response from the Burundian community was extremely positive and the students enjoyed their time with the Burundians as well. Both groups learned from each other and were enriched by the experience.

We took a break for the summer to coincide with summer vacation for the students. The DRE informed me that the Burundians are so excited about the wonderful way their parish has welcomed them, and have told other refugees about the Conversational English Program.

We are scheduled to begin the Program again this semester. The response has been well beyond anything that we had anticipated. We feel privileged to have discovered this need and to have responded to it in a way that has been as rewarding for the students at Saint Michael's College as it has been for the Burundian community.

2. The Teen Lures TV Newscast is an outgrowth of Child Lures Prevention which is the child awareness and prevention program currently used in our catholic pre-school and elementary grade schools. The Teen Lures TV Newscast is designed to tap into school based closed-circuit TV. Student anchors are provided with scripts, video news clips and suggestions for local tie-ins, allowing teens to broadcast prevention education in a personalized peer-to-peer format. Rice Memorial High School was one of the first to use this program nationwide.

3. 2011 National Safe Environment & Victim Assistance Coordinators Leadership Conference (SEVAC) was held May 1st – 6th, 2011 hosted by the diocese of Burlington, VT. This required fourteen months of preparation to assure a level of success to be recognized on a national scale. This was the sixth gathering of representatives from 180 Catholic Dioceses throughout the United States. The theme of the conference was " 'Pro Liberis' as we come together... Be inspired – Set the keystone for the future."

All of the necessary support materials and professional service companies were attended to so the conferees received the full benefit of their continuing education and investment. This conference hosted a daily census of one hundred fifty people engaged with speakers, vendors and collaborate meetings. The roles in which these coordinators and their respective offices play in our community are providing educational programs and outreach services to those affected by sexual abuse. We serve as a resource for parents, teachers, community leaders and clerics to be able to draw upon in the way of child protection.

Expertise in the field of child sexual abuse who came to present included Msgr. Stephen Rossetti – Keynote – Protecting Children in our Society, Reverend Gerard McGlone S.J., Ph.D.- Our Heart's Desire, Barbara Coloroso, author of The Bully, The Bullied and The Bystander, Parry Aftab Sexting, Sextortion, the Law and Teens, Dr. Robert Farley, M.S. - Beyond the Schoolyard, Most Reverend Blasé Cupich – Moving Forward: We Need to Learn From Each Other, Amber, Lyon – Human Trafficking, Cordelia Anderson. M.S. - Restorative Justice, Lester Rosen, JD Law – Background Checks, Prevent Child Abuse Vermont- Vermont's Journey Preventing Child Sexual Abuse, Margaret Leland Smith, M.A. – John Jay Report Findings, Teresa Kettelkamp- Risk Management as it Relates to the Charter, Diane Knight, ACSW, CISW – National Review Board, Paul Ashton, PH.D – Facilitator for Victim Assistance breakout sessions

Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, New Jersey

During the period covered by this audit the following additional efforts on behalf of a more effective safe environment program were implemented.

- 1: Development of chapter treating safe environment issues for the proposed publication of the Eparchy of Passaic Clergy Handbook.
- 2: In-service safe environment training program for priests of the eparchy during annual clergy conference. Program covered review of program, discussion of current concerns with regard to safe environment issues and present status of eparchial program. Included open forum discussion of related topics. Program provided for 100% participation by priests of the eparchy.
- 3: Clergy Week Presentation by Dr. Michael Kane, Ph.D., LCSW treating the issue of healthy and responsible pastoral relationships and the clergy. Dr. Kane focused on what constitutes professional and healthy relationships with parishioners and how to maintain appropriate perspective in the pastoral setting. He shared many practical and helpful insights into the dynamics of relationships and ministry.
- 4: Initiate development of new DVD training tool to be utilized in volunteer and clergy training program.
- 5: Benchmarking with Roman Catholic Diocese of Saint Cloud diocese in the development of new training materials.
- 6: Inter-eparchial consultation and program sharing with other jurisdictions of the Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh for the Ruthenians.

Diocese of Camden, New Jersey

Toll-free 800 number

In order that allegations are responded to and reported when there is reason to believe sexual abuse has occurred, a special toll-free 800 number (1-800-964-6588), which is connected to the diocese's Victims Assistance Coordinator, was established by the Diocese of Camden in April, 2002. All allegations (see Memorandum of Understanding, below) received through the 800 number are reported to the local county prosecutor and to the diocese. The 800 number was also established to ensure that assistance requests can be made easily to the diocese's Victims Assistance Coordinator.

Memorandum of Understanding

The landmark "Memorandum of Understanding" between the New Jersey dioceses and county prosecutors codifies the long-standing practice of this diocese to cooperate with law enforcement and provides an additional way to facilitate the reporting to authorities of any sexual assault of minors. The Diocese of Camden goes beyond the *Charter* requirement that dioceses will "cooperate" with public authorities about reporting in cases when the person is no longer a minor in that *it reports all allegations of abuse to public authorities, whether the person bringing the complaint is a minor or now an adult, no matter how long ago the abuse is alleged to have occurred, and whether or not the accused is living or deceased.*

Clinical Advisory Panel

In addition to the *Charter* requirement that there be an experienced Victim Assistance Coordinator, the Diocese of Camden has a Clinical Advisory Panel of experienced professionals not affiliated with the diocese that conducts quarterly reviews with the Victim Assistance Coordinator of whatever assistance

is being provided to those who have been victimized. This is done in order to ensure that the level and quality of care being provided to the victim through the Victim Assistance Coordinator meets the victim's needs. The Clinical Advisory Panel, which includes a victim of sexual abuse, consists of: Robert Crawford, Ed.D., M.S., Nancy Rocereto, ACSW, and Julie Ann Lipman, Psy.D., of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Fingerprint Criminal History Background Checks

Realizing that the best way to obtain accurate criminal histories is through the use of *fingerprints*, the Diocese of Camden requires that a criminal history background check based on fingerprints processed through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the New Jersey State Police be performed on volunteers and employees, including clergy, who have regular contact with minors. In addition, the diocese requires that *all clergy* (priests and deacons) receive the fingerprint background check, not only those who have regular contact with minors.

The diocese's policy also includes the requirement that adult, third-party contractors who perform work or activities on behalf of the diocese, a parish, a school or any entity affiliated with these organizations (including those who are paid by others, e.g., government funded positions, contracted services), must also undergo a criminal history background check via fingerprinting.

While not required by the *Charter*, this diocese also requires that the backgrounds of all adults with regular contact with minors, including clergy, be re-checked every three years.

Office of Safe Environment for Children, Youth & Adults

Most Reverend Joseph A. Galante, Bishop of Camden, in October 2004 established the Office of Safe Environment for Children Youth & Adults under the direction of Rod J. Herrera, L.C.S.W. In this full-time, paid position, Mr. Herrera oversees the diocese's programs of prevention, including background checks, safe-environment training and codes of conduct.

In addition to this office, each of the diocese's parishes, elementary schools and high schools have a Safe Environment Coordinator who works directly with the diocesan office to ensure compliance with the criminal history background check policy and the safe environment policies of the diocese.

Mr. Herrera also is responsible for monitoring the crisis and emergency plans for all the elementary and secondary schools. Working collaboratively with the Office of Catholic Schools, his office ensures all schools have a crisis plan, updates them yearly and drills them during the academic year.

Workshops on Internet Safety

The Office of Safe Environment, in cooperation with NetSmartz, a division of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, held five (5) workshops at schools in the diocese during the audit period to educate parents, guardians, teachers, principals, catechists, and youth leaders on the dangers to children posed by the Internet (particularly given the growing popularity of chat rooms and social networking sites and the propensity for abusers to use the Internet to groom potential victims).

Child Lures Prevention: Think First & Stay Safe

The Diocese of Camden has utilized the nationally-known safe environment program called *Child Lures Prevention: Think First & Stay Safe*. This program is used in all of our parish and other catechetical programs. Although a sound program, it is secular in nature. In the summer of 2009, the director of the Diocese of Camden's Office of Safe Environment organized a task force of parish catechetical leaders.

Along with the assistant director of Faith and Family Life Formation, this task force transformed this secular program into a faith-based program. Each lesson was provided with prayers, scriptural passages, a saint or religious hero/heroine, Catholic doctrine and religious symbols. The faith-based program was implemented in September 2009 and used by all the parishes during this audit year. The directors of *Child Lures Prevention: Think First & Stay Safe* based in Vermont have disseminated the program developed by the Camden Diocese throughout the United States, have made it available to all dioceses that have been using the secular version, and it is being used by dioceses including the Diocese of Saginaw and the Diocese of Burlington.

Web Site

As part of its policy of open communication with the public and to ensure that its policies, procedures and expectations with regard to sexual abuse of minors are widely disseminated, the diocese has continued to maintain and feature prominently (via a link directly off the home page of the diocesan site at www.camdendiocese.org) a comprehensive site structured around the major articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children & Young People* and explains how the diocese is fulfilling the mandates of the Charter. Significantly, it includes contact information and links to each county prosecutor and the local offices of the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services. The site includes the following key sections:

Accountability of Procedures: Text and reports related to the John Jay and National Review Board Reports and the Gavin Audit Reports, with links to the national Office of Youth Protection and National Review Board.

Standards for the Protection of Children & Young People: Complete text of the Charter for the Protection of Children & Young People (English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Polish and Korean), Norms, New Jersey Provincial Policy, Memorandum of Understanding (and accompanying Commentary), Revised Guidelines of the Diocese of Camden, Recommendations of the Borden Committee, Statewide Policy on Criminal History Background Checks, Guidelines for the Conduct of Spiritual Directors and Counselors (English and Spanish), and Policy on Sexual Harassment. Also, Chaperone policy, Acceptable Use Policy for Technology Available at School and Guidelines for Internet and Electronic Communications.

Report Sexual Abuse: Describes the toll-free 800 number established by the diocese to facilitate the reporting of abuse allegations and to assist victims in arranging for support services.

County Prosecutors: The website also includes contact information for county prosecutors and for the local offices of the Division of Youth and Family Services.

The Diocesan Response: A chronological listing of significant events in the Church's response to sexual abuse of minors with links to key documents and support materials.

Victim Assistance: Information about and services provided by the Victim Assistance Coordinator, the Clinical Advisory Panel, the Support Group sponsored by the diocese for victims and the diocese's program of Pastoral Outreach.

Indicators of Abuse: A link to the State of New Jersey Department of Children and Families "Indicators of Child Abuse/Neglect" website.

Communication

To ensure that its policies, procedures and expectations with regard to sexual abuse of minors are widely disseminated, the diocese made use of the promotional materials prepared by the USCCB's Office of Youth protection, including mailing to each parish in July, 2010 a full-color poster ("Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal") customized with the name and number of the diocese's victim assistance coordinator. In addition, color flyers produced by the diocese promoting the diocese's 800# and support group were also mailed to all pastors for posting in parish facilities.

In addition, a June 9, 2010 memorandum was mailed to each parish outlining the process for reporting allegations of abuse. Flyers also were attached for posting in parish facilities promoting the toll-free 800 number for the reporting of abuse claims. The memorandum also included suggested bulletin announcements for parish use.

Finally, weekly notices were placed in the diocesan newspaper, the Catholic Star Herald, advertising the 800 number for the reporting of abuse. In addition quarter page display ads also ran in the newspaper.

Assistance with Research

The diocese participated in CARA's annual "Survey of Allegations and Costs" and participated in the John Jay College of Criminal Justice "Causes and Context Study," which was returned to John Jay on March 22, 2010.

During this current audit year, the Office of Safe Environment took on the added responsibility of ensuring that all documents of criminal history background checks of all Catholic school personnel were on file at the diocesan level. Copies of these clearance letter documents are now to be maintained in the Office of Safe Environment as well as at the local school administrator's office.

Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, Bishop Guglielmone held a special Mass on Saturday, April 2, 2011 at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. It provided an opportunity to make the public aware of our efforts and encourage their efforts on behalf of all the children in our State.

Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming

On April 15, 2010, Bishop Etienne wrote an open letter, placed on the diocesan website, apologizing to anyone who had been abused by a member of the clergy and encouraging them to contact the Diocese of Cheyenne, expressing his personal commitment to meet with any victim. (A copy of the letter is attached.)

In response to recent renewed interest by the media concerning clergy sex abuse in the Catholic Church, Bishop Paul Etienne wrote a letter dated May 18, 2010 to the priests and deacons of the Diocese of Cheyenne requesting and encouraged their continued outreach to anyone who has been a victim of clergy sexual abuse. There was positive response from the clergy to the bishop's support and direction. (A copy of the letter is attached.)

Bishop Etienne has personally met with two victims of sexual abuse.

The April 2010 quarterly issue of the *Wyoming Catholic Register* contained contact information of the Victim Assistance Coordinator, the Vicar General, and the Chancellor in order to report sexual misconduct in the Diocese of Cheyenne.

Archdiocese of Chicago, Illinois

Healing Garden

Cardinal George dedicated the Archdiocese of Chicago Healing Garden on June 9, 2011. A committee made up of victims-survivors, staff from the Office of Assistance Ministry and two Archdiocesan priests worked on this project and with the support of Cardinal George, the Chancellor and the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth the two years of planning became a reality. The enclosed newsletter from the Office of Assistance Ministry captures the highlights of the dedication. There is also a link to the Healing Garden on the Archdiocese of Chicago webpage that gives more information.

Consultation/Mentoring

The Office for the Protection of Children and Youth hosted three staff members from the Diocese of Hamburg, Germany for one week. We shared what we have learned, what worked and what did not work, from all of our offices: Safe Environment, Child Abuse Investigations and Review, the priest Monitoring program (archdiocesan priests removed from public ministry for sexual misconduct with a minor are monitored by the Compliance Supervisor in OPCY), and the Office for Assistance Ministry. Policies, Guidelines, brochures, training materials for adults and children were all provided.

Electronic Communication Guidelines

Collaborated with the Office for Catholic Schools, Legal Services, Youth Ministry and Catechesis to develop comprehensive Guidelines for Electronic Communication with children and young people.

Mandated Reporter Training

An agreement was reached with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to have Mandated Reporter Training now accessible online for all Archdiocesan employees and volunteers working with children. Live Mandated Reported Training sessions were offered in Spanish and Polish.

Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio

Each year we survey the public school superintendents to ask them how they accomplish educational programs for children in personal safety and assault, dating violence prevention, the harmful effects of drugs and studies in venereal disease education and the materials they use to do so whether from the State of Ohio or other sources. Not all of our children attend Catholic schools and this helps us determine the safe environment education they are provided by public schools.

Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio

Pornography Workshop

During this Audit period, our safe environment office benefited from a workshop on pornography. The keynote speaker was Dr. Peter C. Kleponis, PhD, LPCC, who has excellent credentials and experience in dealing with marriage and family therapy. He specializes in pornography addiction recovery. His workshops here in the Diocese of Cleveland focused on the magnitude of the pornography epidemic; root causes that lead to use of pornography; the damage of the problem to men and their families; and

more. The total attendance at these talks was over 100 people, including priests, seminarians, and lay ecclesial ministers.

Presentations in Community

The Director of the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth acted as a panelist on a presentation of the role of the faith community in addressing the evils of child abuse. The speaker was Jeanette Harder, PhD, CMSW, Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at University of Nebraska at Omaha, and her topic was titled, "Preparing the Faith Communities to Protect Children." The conference was held at Providence House, a crisis nursery in Cuyahoga County. Other panelists included professionals from the Cuyahoga County Dept of Children & Family services and from the Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center. Events such as these continue to raise awareness.

Media Safety Workshops

Also, the efforts to create safe environments in the Diocese of Cleveland are furthered by outreach in social media practices and internet safety. For example, during the academic year 2010-2011, at least 11 parishes or schools hosted a faith-based media literacy presentation. These faith-based media workshops offer participants a chance to see how their faith and media habits intersect. There are a variety of new technologies to help people become more connected to their faith and to each other, but we need to be savvy in the use of these medium. Audiences included students in K-8th grade, junior high students, parents, parishioners and faculties, with over 799 in total attendance. Specifically, Internet Safety presentations examine the positives and cautions with Internet use focusing on how we as Catholics should use and respect the Internet as a gift from God. Presentations for 6th – 8th grades and parents also include information about social networking (i.e. Facebook).

Seminary

It should be noted that Saint Mary Seminary implements many aspects of safe environment training throughout their formation activities, including but not limited to: the actual safe environment training; classes that outline the nature of addictions and the role substance abuse can play in the process of other violations of trust; and courses that reflect the importance of knowing and maintaining good boundaries with children/youth.

Praesidium, Called to Protect™

An ongoing investment of time and talent is in the implementation of "Called to Protect," a valuable program of Praesidium. This K-8 educational program will be supplemental to VIRTUS (our baseline safe environment training program). Praesidium has been developing safe environment initiatives since 1991, and uses a research-based model for prevention that includes root cause analysis to develop the most effective strategies for teaching both adults and children how to create safe environments. We have decided to focus this program on the children in-and-out of the Catholic school system and the parents who are dedicated to the welfare of their children. The implementation of this program has progressed in stages, and will continue to be introduced in every parish of the Diocese.

Communications Department of the Diocese of Cleveland

We continue the effort to keep the consciousness and reporting of "Child Protection" matters before both the Catholic population and the public in the eight counties of the Diocese. The Diocesan web site www.dioceseofcleveland.org keeps a "Child Protection" post under "Diocesan Initiatives" on the site's home page. This is a direct link to reporting cases of abuse, diocesan child protection policies, and diocesan structure related to any child protection matters. The Communications Department also circulates through the Diocesan Memorandum...upwards of 1100 subscribers each month...a bulletin

notification announcement which parishes are asked to publish. The published bulletins are then voluntarily returned to the department for an accounting of where and when the announcements, alerting the public, would have run.

During the audit year, a story entitled “Protecting God’s Children—Remaining Vigilant” was published on the Diocesan web site home page and remained in the rotator or top stories area of the site for several weeks. It was a reminder of the Diocese’s commitment to child protection and explained policies and procedures and the Bishop’s desire to have any potential cases of abuse reported.

Diocese of Colorado Springs, Colorado

1. We develop and provide an annual safe environment training update for employees and volunteers working with children and youth. This is required training for all who have already received the foundational safe environment training and continue to work with minors.
2. We sponsored a poster contest for the children in our religious education and Catholic School classes on the theme of Internet Safety. We identified two winners: one from the K-3 grades and one from grades 4-6. Their posters were duplicated in color by a printing company, distributed to all parishes and schools, and displayed during April, Child Abuse Prevention Month. Many parishes have kept them posted all year.
3. We provide bulletin inserts each April for Child Abuse Prevention Month which includes information on child safety as well as encouragement to report to civil authorities and the diocesan internal reporting protocols.
4. We distribute information sent from the national office to all parishes and schools. We also distributed guidance specifically about safety during the Halloween holiday from the National Center on Missing and Exploited Children.
5. As our budget allows, we attend the national conference for Safe Environment Coordinators each year, as well as other local and national training opportunities. During the audit period, two of us attended this national conference in Portland, Maine.
6. We convene at least two meetings each year of all the parishes’ Safe Environment Coordinators so that we can standardize our practices, share wisdom and successes, and troubleshoot together. We provide an inspirational segment for the Coordinators to help keep them motivated.
7. We have expanded the category for screening and training of employees and volunteers from “regular contact” in the words of the Charter to include “high-risk” contact in our diocese. We have maintained the verbiage of “regular contact” from the original Charter since our goal is to eliminate virtually all “unsupervised contact.”
8. We provide Safe Environment training via professional quality DVDs for volunteers and employees who cannot attend a live training session, though we endeavor to provide live training throughout the diocese upon any request by a parish or school. This DVD version is to be provided in a group setting facilitated by a parish or school staff member (usually their Safe Environment Coordinator) and includes interaction among attendees. It is not simply to be checked out by individuals.
9. When invited, we give presentations about what the Catholic Church is doing in the area of child protection to outside groups. During the audit year, we presented at an art show sponsored by Finding Our Voices, an organization that promotes healing from child sexual abuse through art. We also presented at Fort Carson Army Post during their Victim Advocacy Program.
10. We maintain Code Adam at the pastoral center. Code Adam is a "missing child" safety program in the United States and Canada, originally created by Wal-Mart retail stores in 1994. It is named in memory of Adam Walsh, the 6-year-old son of John Walsh (the host of Fox's America's Most Wanted.).

11. We conduct reviews of parish and school Charter compliance through on-site visits (*informal audits*) based on previous diocesan audits. We make every effort to visit each parish and school on a rotating basis every 2-3 years.
12. One of our priests who was a law enforcement detective prior to ordination serves as a special consultant in all matters of child safety for the diocese. He's provided invaluable advice regarding criminal background investigations.
13. We maintain contact with and seek advice from local law enforcement personnel when suspicious behaviors are brought to our attention. These behaviors do not involve clergy, employees, or volunteers so they were not Charter matters.
14. We also consult our Review Board on matters that are broader than the scope of the Charter's mandates.

Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

1. The Diocese of Columbus continues its system of self-audits and onsite audits for parishes and schools. This entailed having each parish and school complete a report to the Diocese of Columbus regarding their compliance with diocesan policy and the Charter and Norms. The Diocese then set up a 3-year cycle whereby diocesan staff members visit each parish and school to assess their compliance. This has proved to be most helpful and has enabled the Diocese of Columbus to better identify which parishes and schools are fully in compliance and which ones need additional assistance from the Diocese in order to be fully in compliance. In addition to continuing what was started previously, the Diocese of Columbus has added an element of follow-up reports that provide pastors and/or principals with a summary of areas on which they may need to accomplish additional tasks in order to achieve full compliance. This supplements the initial audit results letter that is sent to the pastor and/or principal and fosters greater communication between the Diocese and pastors/principals. Finally, we have also begun an ongoing process of evaluation of our auditing efforts in order to refine our techniques and better detect non-compliance. This year these improvement efforts led to the most thorough reporting back to us that we have experienced.
2. The Diocese of Columbus continues its policy of reporting any and all information it learns to the authorities, even in those instances where no reporting is required.* This continues to foster a spirit of trust in the Diocese of Columbus on the part of the authorities and serves as a strong reassurance to the public of the Diocese's commitment to protecting children. Information is shared with the authorities about all reports, whether the accused are clergy, employees, or lay volunteers.
3. The Diocese of Columbus implemented use of Virtus' International Priests program during this audit period. This supplements the Protecting God's Children program by introducing the priests to American culture and how to function appropriately within the culture, not just with children but with adults as well. This program has been well-received by our international priests and has been found to be very helpful.
4. In February 2011, the Diocese's St Vincent Family Center (SVFC) worked with the diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator to create "PGC Outreach." Students in the Department of Education at Capital University in Columbus intern at SVFC. The Safe Environment Coordinator goes to Capital and facilitates a PGC session for those students. We did this in both the spring and summer semesters of 2011. In addition to the 10 students who were trained, the head of the program and an adjunct faculty professor

were trained. Both of the faculty members were very impressed by both the program, and our commitment to protecting all children.

5. Also in February 2011, Bishop Campbell directed that all those who officiate at athletic contests sponsored or hosted by the Diocese Recreation Association (DRA) must be in compliance with existing safe environment policies, even though they do not have direct care, custody, and control of the student athletes. This includes all DRA programs for grades 4-12. The Diocese held several five PGC sessions for the officials. The majority of the officials was very supportive and thanked us for providing training on this issue. The Diocese established August 1, 2011 as the deadline for officials to be in compliance. Those officials not in compliance are not being scheduled to officiate at athletic contests.

Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas

Exhibitor at It's a Girl Thing Conference in Corpus Christi, Texas. Conference took place Saturday February 26, 2011 with booth presentations in the afternoon at two lunch break out sessions. The focus demographic was middle and high school girls and their mother's or female caregivers. Total attendance was over 500 individuals. This event allowed for the disbursement of parent, educational resources and contact cards for the Office for Child and Youth Protection.

Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota

Wrote a grant for Victoria Dathe to attend the Burlington Vermont Safe Environment Conference for continued education.

Developed and implemented our online Certification process. The new online process allows for completing the Acknowledgement and Consent Form, taking the required training, and completing the Component test online. The information is then sent by password protected email to the Safe Environment Office for processing and also to the appropriate Safe Environment Coordinator at each Parish. Most comments have been positive.

Utilized the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children by putting the Net Cetera (Chatting with kids about being online) by making them available to the Parish's.

Began forming our plan for the upcoming year for the testing of adults and children around technology. We have had meetings, collected literature, developed test questions and worked on adapting it to our online process.

Diocese of Dallas, Texas

Meeting of Clergy, Safety Directors and Youth Ministers

On September 15, 2010, we hosted a conference for priests, deacons, safety directors, and youth ministers. Dr. Monica Applewhite spoke on "Boundaries in Ministry." Dr. Applewhite's talk was videotaped. We are using the video to train employees and volunteers. This conference was held at the Cathedral 200 attended.

Parish/School Safety Directors' Meetings

There are approximately 80 safety directors in our diocese. Twice a year meetings are held with all safety directors. Speakers are invited to educate our parish safety directors on issues concerning abuse. In June cluster meetings are held in four different parts of the diocese. Cluster meetings provide the safety directors an opportunity to share ideas, in a smaller forum to ask questions, and attain a better understanding of our Dioceses. These meetings are well attended

Database

The Diocese of Dallas implemented a web-based database in 2008 to enable parish safe environment directors to track safe environment data on clergy, employees, and volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults. Parishes are mandated to use this database. The website is protected using a security certificate. All data being transferred is encrypted to prevent data from being read in transit. The database is backed up twice every hour and transferred to a backup server every night. Only the safety director in a particular location has access to the data for their location.

The database also enables a parishioner who wishes to volunteer in a parish to complete a screening form and register for a class on the website. Safety directors receive the screening form, contact references, and order criminal background checks on the database. Accutrak, the company doing the criminal background checks, automatically updates the database. People are notified by the database when their training is expiring, directs them to a schedule of classes or to a place on line where they can take a class and automatically updates their record. We believe the database is a great assistance to safety directors enabling them to stay in compliance.

Articles in Texas Catholic Newspaper

Our diocesan newspaper assists our office by printing articles to increase awareness about safe environment.

September 3, 2010, the back to school, issue printed articles about web safety.

October 1, 2010 an article highlighted the one-day conference held for clergy, youth ministers, and safety directors presented by Dr. Monica Applewhite.

On October 15, 2010, published an article concerning programs a number of our schools are using to combat bullying.

April 1, 2011 edition of the paper featured a one-page article about the importance of our safe environment audits.

Diocese of Davenport, Iowa

- The Diocese completed its 3rd annual report to the bankruptcy judge, submitted May 2, 2011.
- Our VAC wrote a column in *The Catholic Messenger* regarding "The Ten Things We've Learned from Survivors of Abuse"
- We have a procedure for Registered Sex Offenders for all of our schools and faith formation. We also have a policy for Registered Sex Offenders in our parishes. (See the enclosed materials)

- We have a five year recertification for all our employees and volunteers who work with children. This is an update of the Virtus PGC DVD. It includes internet use, texting, etc.
- Four from our staff went to Chicago in August, as we have in the past, to the Annual Virtus training which includes updates and input from us on their materials.
- Many schools and faith formation programs have had police officers in to talk to youngsters and parents about internet safety and use of cell phones and computers.
- We use the USCCB's policy for technology and the NFCYM's. Updated Staff Handbook regarding social networking.
- Online training is now available for new staff and/or volunteers. This makes it possible to begin employment when the training complete. This is also true for the five year recertification. Training is available in English and Spanish.
- Daycares, preschools or early learning centers in the state of Iowa, which are mandated by the Iowa Department of Human Services, now conduct background checks through the DHS and upon renewal of licensure conduct fingerprinting of volunteers or staff. Rather than going through the diocese.
- We train volunteers and employees yearly outside our Diocese to help Camp Shalom in Maquoketa (Archdiocese of Dubuque).
- Facilitator training has been done for Archdiocese of Dubuque, Diocese of Sioux City and Diocese of Des Moines.

Diocese of Dubuque, Iowa

The Archdiocese of Dubuque published an article each week during the month of April 2011 – Child Abuse Prevention Month - in the archdiocesan newspaper *The Witness*. The articles were chosen from materials provided by the USCCB. All parishes were requested to print announcement in their bulletins regarding Child Abuse Prevention Month. All locations were given material/information for use in parishes and schools.

The Archdiocese of Dubuque continues to work on internal auditing of our background check and safe environment training databases to ensure a cross-check that all employees and volunteers have both pieces. Policies and paperwork have been updated to incorporate suggestions from the 2010 Audit.

Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota

We are now requiring all priests, deacons, candidates for ordination, educators, diocesan employees, parish and school employees and volunteers to redo the safe environment process every five years. The process is as follows:

1. They are receiving an updated Sexual Misconduct Policy Booklet, which they must read and then sign the enclosed form.

2. They must also fill out the portion giving permission for a criminal background check including their Social Security Number.
3. They must redo the online safe environment training and submit a certificate of completion.
4. When we have received the necessary documents, we then do another criminal background check. This process will be repeated every five years.

Diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania

During this audit year, our diocese has inserviced 1,181 preschool students, in addition to the mandated Kindergarten – Grade 12 students. We utilized the services of our county PCAR groups and/or used age appropriate video or music programs.

In recognition of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, our office provided a flyer to our Religious Education programs and Catholic Schools which could be reproduced and sent home for parents. We also posted informative articles, provided by the USCCB's Office for the Protection of Children and Youth, on our website. These resources were advertised on our home page with easy access to the diocesan Child Protection web page.

In January, 2011, monthly bulletin announcements were distributed to all religious education leaders for inclusion in parish bulletins. Announcements deal with information about child abuse, child safety tips and contact information. These announcements are also posted on our diocesan website for easy access for parish secretaries. Parishes were also asked to publish information about the diocesan Child Abuse Policy and procedures and the Code of Conduct. Sample announcements were provided by the diocese.

We have continued the process of designing and implementing an on-line version of our adult inservice program, which will be posted on our diocesan website in late September, 2011.

Diocese of Evansville, Indiana

During the month of April 2011 (Prevent Child Abuse Month), we selected a bulletin announcement from the list provided by the Office of Child & Youth Protection. The bulletin announcement was published in the weekly issue of our diocesan newspaper, THE MESSAGE, and also some of our parish bulletins. Along with the bulletin announcement we ran articles entitled "Did You Know" from the USCCB; "Myths & Facts about Internet Sex Crimes against Children;" "Creating Safe Environments in all Child Serving Organizations;" "Twelve Things the Bishops Learned from the Sexual Abuse Crisis;" and Safe Environment – Ten Points for Protecting Children."

Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska

Bishop Kettler has done healing services and visited victims during the audit year as follows: Nome Aug 28-29, 2010; St. Marys Jan. 13-16, 2011; Fairbanks Feb. 7, 2011; Anchorage April 9-11, 2011; Emmonak May 3, 2011; Alakanuk May 4, 2011; Nunam Iqua May 5-6, 2011.

The Diocese hosted Teresa Kettelkamp from the USCCB Office of Child Protection in Fairbanks and Nulato from Feb5-12, 2011. Ms. Kettelkamp did a training and presentation for clergy and also for

school and diocesan employees working with children and youth to which local child protection agencies were invited.

The diocese flew a psychologist who specializes in working with rural Native Alaskans to the Village of St. Michael for an extended visit Feb. 18-21, 2011. The doctor met with survivors and their families and conducted culturally-based therapy/healing sessions

The diocese hosted a PBS Frontline film crew in Fairbanks and in St. Michael. The bishop gave an interview. The showing aired on 4/19/11.

Child Protection Team staff from the Diocese toured Stevie's Place, the local Child Advocacy Center where children reporting abuse are interviewed and examined, on June 10, 2011 and met with staff of that facility and the state Office of Children's Services.

Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts

1. In July of 2010, the Office for Child Protection (OCP) of CSS (Catholic Social Services) printed new Child Protection Manuals which included all of the information necessary for parish and school personnel to train volunteers, process forms and maintain safe environments for the children of the Diocese. Included in the manuals were copies of the Charter and the Diocesan Abuse Prevention Policies and Procedures. In August of 2010, all DREs were required to attend a training with Debora Jones of the OCP regarding the manuals, and all school principals and Safe Environment staff also attended a training on the manuals. Feedback was very positive that people had organized information in a written format so they could access it whenever needed.
2. In December of 2010, the OCP wrote and distributed new forms and a new training guide which significantly changed and improved Diocesan Safe Environment training. This training format was directed to be used at all Diocesan trainings. The training has a number of options so that it can be tailored to the specific audience. Initially, there was hesitation over something new, but once people realized that they had options with the training, they began to embrace it.
3. In March of 2011, the OCP redesigned its website for Child Protection, giving trainers easier access to information and access to all forms with the exception of training tests. The feedback thus far has been positive, once people got used to the new format. It is far cleaner and more user-friendly than the previous format.
4. In April of 2011, Debora Jones co-wrote new policies and procedures for all Internet/technology use for the Diocese. The new booklet will be distributed following final approval by the Bishop. The intent of the work is to clarify expectations and guidelines for all use of technology. It will set higher standards for parent notification and for contact between adults and minors in Diocesan settings.
5. Debora Jones asked to sit on the Catholic Education Center's Anti-Bullying Committee for the Diocese. In addition to participation in the creation of the policy for the Diocese, Debora has worked to become a Diocesan resource on the topic, and has facilitated a workshop for DREs at their last convention, as well as working directly with schools to ensure child safety. The Catholic Education Center has stated clearly that they rely on the work of the School Crisis Counselor and the OCP to keep children safe as well as to protect the integrity of the schools.

6. One of the largest parishes in the Diocese has continued to request that the OCP coordinator conduct a class on bullying and teen suicide prevention for the parish's confirmation class. The class is well received every year and the speaker is already booked for next year.

Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana

Assessment of learning for children

The SEC developed simple assessments for children in grades three and six in all Catholic schools and parish religious education programs. The assessments were true/false quizzes meant to measure comprehension of the safe environment training material taught. The assessments were analyzed to determine if children understood the material taught and if any area in particular needed strengthening.

Diocese of Ft. Worth, Texas

1. Online Safe Environment Renewal Training – In July and August 2010, the Office of Child and Youth Protection “field tested” the use of online Safe Environment Renewal Sessions for all clergy, personnel, and volunteers. In the Diocese of Fort Worth, all persons engaged in a recognized ministry are required to complete Safe Environment Training every three years. The online program was launched in late August 2011, through cooperative efforts with LOGOS Catholic, Inc. and Praesidium, Inc. This program makes it possible for clergy, employees, and volunteers to complete Safe Environment Renewal Training online.
2. Additional Options for Training Safe Environment Trainers:
 - a. Annual diocesan-wide “Train the Trainer” event – This annual event has been the chief method for preparing safe environment trainers in the diocese. Because of the need and request for additional trainings to prepare new trainers, the following options were implemented in 2010-2011:
 - b. Parish “Mentoring” Process – for Safe Environment Coordinators who wish to prepare their own trainers, a mentoring process was developed which allows interested individuals to receive “hands-on,” supervised instruction over a 3 to 6-month period. The instruction includes attendance at and observation of Safe Environment Trainers conducting training events, reading and viewing assignments of Safe Environment Training materials, discussion of assignments followed by supervised experiences as trainers at parish SE events until the Coordinator determines that the “students” are prepared to begin working with experienced trainers.
 - c. Deanery level “Train the Trainer” events – The director of the diocesan Safe Environment Program has begun working with Safe Environment Coordinators and staff at the deanery level to provide area “Train the Trainer” sessions to prepare new Safe Environment Trainers. These one-day training events bring together men and women from a “cluster” of parishes and schools in a given area of the diocese to receive training as trainers. These deanery-level “Train the Trainer” events, have promoted increased communication and cooperation between parishes with regard to the scheduling of Safe Environment Trainings.
3. In-service Events for New Directors of Religious Education and Catechists on the Religious Education Safe Environment Curriculum – The director of the diocesan Safe Environment Program and the director

of Children's Catechesis launched a new project in the fall to provide in-service education for all Directors of Religious education and religious education teachers in the use of the parish-based safe-environment curriculum (produced in 2008 in cooperation with Praesidium, Inc.). This effort has required the adaptation of the safe environment curriculum utilized in the diocesan Catholic schools curriculum to a parish model and the instruction of religious education teachers in basic teaching skills in order to convey the concepts of the curriculum to their students, Pre-K through 12th grade.

4. Deanery-Level Planning for Safe Environment Training Sessions - Deanery-level "Train the Trainer" events described in 2C, above, have promoted increased communication and cooperation between parishes with regard to the scheduling of Safe Environment Trainings. Safe Environment Coordinators now plan cooperatively when and where safe environment sessions will be held throughout a given deanery and share trainers when needed.

Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico

The Diocese of Gallup has provided important steps, protocol and procedures to ensure that minors and adults have the opportunity to ensure their safety. Diocesan employees and volunteers are required to receive Virtus Training in order to provide prevention skills and identify the signs and symptoms of abuse. It is imperative that the diocese continues to abide by the abuse reporting procedures that are in place in New Mexico and Arizona.

Previously one individual held the two positions of Victim Assistance Coordinator and Safe Environment Coordinator. Bishop Wall has now separated these two positions with the appointments of Diane DiPaolo as Victim Assistance Coordinator and Deacon Paul Endter as Safe Environment Coordinator. Diane has a bachelor's degree in education a master's degree in elementary education and in counseling. She has been recognized as New Mexico school counselor of the year and was selected as director of counseling services for Gallup McKinley County School District.

Deacon Paul Endter, Safe Environment Director was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate in 2007, assigned to St. Francis Parish Gallup and oversees the Virtus Program for the Diocese of Gallup.

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Texas

The Jeremiah 1:7 Program was developed in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston a safe environment program for high school age volunteers assisting adults in ministry to children and youth under the age of 18. The youth volunteers receive the necessary tools to assist the adults in creating a safer environment for the younger children they are ministering to. The Archdiocese began implementing Jeremiah 1:7 in the fall of 2010 and it has been very well received.

In the fall of 2010, the Archdiocese began a pilot program with 3 of our parishes in the new Sacred & Safe Program. This program which provides faith-based safe environment lessons for children and youth in kindergarten through the 12th grades. This annual program will involve an ongoing endeavor to provide one grade-specific lesson each year to help children and youth develop the skills to protect themselves from sexual abuse. An essential parent component will complement the grade-specific lessons. The Offices of Continuing Christian Education and Youth Ministry will oversee the formation process. The Archdiocesan Safe Environment Office will oversee the reporting process. This program

was well received; therefore, effective September 2011, Cardinal DiNardo has mandated the program be used for all children and youth in parish CCE programs.

During the current audit period, the Archdiocese conducted the International Priests Acculturation Program. They were 9 new international priests who arrived for an assignment in the Archdiocese in January 2011. The IPAP program provides them with an introduction to the tools necessary to successfully minister in the American Church in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. They receive orientation on our culture and training in a wide variety of areas over the course of two weeks, including:

- Culture and Acculturation
- Parishes: Roles of Women, Laity, Structure
- Ministry to Families Across the Life Cycle
- Safe Environment Training (VIRTUS)
- Ministering in a Multicultural Diocese (Hispanic, Asian, African & African American, etc.)

The program is well received and participants greatly appreciate the care and effort of the Archdiocese to provide them the opportunity to learn about their new ministry environment.

Diocese of Gary, Indiana

The Diocese of Gary's newspaper, The Northwest Indiana Catholic has run several articles during this audit period pertaining to the advancement of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

The Diocese of Gary is currently in partnership with "Safe Families for Children," a program of Lydia Home Association: www.safe-families.org

This organization offers a support system for parents before abuse or neglect happens. A voluntary program that offers emergency in-home crisis care for families, presentations have been given at numerous parishes and schools.

Bishop Dale Melczek serves as an Advisor and has served on the Board of Director's in the past for the Crisis Center Inc <http://www.crisiscenterysb.org/> The Crisis Center is a shelter for at risk teens in the Northwest Indiana Community. They also offer "Safe Place" training, crisis telephone services, counseling services, and Teen Court which is a youth development project that invests youth in citizenship.

The Diocese of Gary offers a zip code list of all offenders in each county to parishes annually.

The Diocese of Gary annually publishes the Code of Conduct which are the practical guidelines all must adhere to in order to provide a Safe Environment for our Youth.

Each April, we host additional resources on our website during Child Abuse Awareness Month.

This year we took part in the "**Take 25**" Initiative, which focuses on taking 25 minutes to discuss safety with children. Our Diocesan Safe Environment team sent 137 packets of information, including 25

resource packets in Spanish, to each school and parish with instructions on how to participate and hold information meetings with parents, teachers and others in the parish and school. This was a very successful endeavor for our Safe Environment team this year.

Darlene Marchina, Virtus Coordinator attended the Virtus Conference held in Chicago, IL August 2010 & 2011.

Diocese of Gaylord, Michigan

We re-distributed a copy of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* at the Priest Overnight Retreat held at the Augustine Center in Conway on June 27-28, 2011. During the past few months, as we were gathering numbers for the Safe Environment Audit from our parishes and schools, there were requests about wording and where certain things were located within the *Charter*. Some seemed unable to locate their copy. We thought it prudent to make sure that each office does indeed have a copy.

We proposed and updated a policy for visiting priests and deacons in the diocese. This should keep our standards in line across the Diocese and assure the suitability of their ministry. This was handed out at the Priest Retreat in June and will be finalized at the next presbyteral meeting.

There were year round informational bulletins and publications to remind everyone that victims of abuse or neglect can report the matter, no matter when it occurred. It also stated that confidentiality will always be a priority. These announcements are on the Diocesan Website and published in parish bulletins and in the Catholic Weekly Sunday Newspaper.

In December of 2010, we instituted a new priest orientation program for foreign priests. This two-day program included meeting with all diocesan secretariat directors and introducing the *Virtus* Safe Environment Program for International Priests. This program is also available on line.

For Safe Environment Training for adult volunteers and employees we offer Shield the Vulnerable online training courses. These courses are innovative, interactive, and specific to Michigan, online training courses developed by LawRoom. The courses address the Safe Environment initiatives by training adults who interact with children, youths and elders how to recognize report and prevent abuse, and teaching children and teens about personal safety. The course that we require is Recognize, Report and Prevent Child Abuse. Others that we offer are: Cyberspace: Risks and Solutions, Eliminating Bullying, Recognize and Report Elder Abuse/Financial Abuse.

We continue to use the Circle of Grace Program for our children and young people. This faith-based program strives to educate and empower children and young people to actively participate in maintaining a safe environment for themselves and others. This program is being used by our parishes and schools.

Diocese of Grand Island, Nebraska

Community Outreach

- Distribution of Information – Stuhr Museum Festival of Trees - The Diocesan Child Protection Office sponsors a Christmas tree at a local museum's "Festival of Trees." The theme of the 2010 tree was "Uniquely and Specially Created..." communicating the message that all children are created in God's image and deserving of dignity and respect. Themed decorations and handouts introduced "10 ways to show respect" and a link to the diocesan child protection website. In addition to themed decorations, informational bookmarks including "10 Signs of a Safe Program for Children and Youth," "10 Safety Lessons to Teach Your Child," and victim assistance information were distributed to individuals who visited the tree. These bookmarks included policy / procedure and statistical information regarding the diocese's safe environment and victim assistance programs, as well as national statistics regarding the number of adults screened and trained and the number of children / youth educated by the Catholic Church in the United States annually. The themed trees from previous years "Kids Need Good Fruit," and "Love is..." were on display at Parishes in Hemmingford, Chadron, and North Platte. The trees will be available each year for parishes to utilize in community outreach efforts across the diocese.

Collaboration with Community Resources

- "Creating An Environment Safe from Self Harm" – The Diocese of Grand Island Child Protection Office received a mini-grant from Interchurch Ministries and the Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition to educate volunteers and staff who work with children and youth in the signs of suicide / self-harm and how to respond. The program will be utilized as part of the continuing education for volunteers and staff. This collaboration was prompted by the high correlation between childhood abuse and suicide attempt and youth suicide statistics indicating that suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10 to 24 year olds in our state. Staff of the Diocesan Child Protection Office participate in Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition meetings and attended a number of workshops and webinars sponsored by the coalition during this audit period.
- Attendance at State Conferences – Representatives of the Diocesan Child Protection Office attended statewide conferences sponsored by the Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition; Hall County Suicide Prevention Project; Saint Francis Medical Center (Approach to Child Sexual Abuse), the Child Abuse Resource and Education Program ("An Evening to Care: An Inspirational Event Aimed at Preventing Child Abuse in Our Community"), and the Domestic Violence Council. Attendance provided opportunity to connect with abuse prevention efforts across the state.
- Child Abuse Prevention Month – Efforts were made to collaborate with Child Abuse Prevention Council leaders in communities throughout the diocese for Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Nebraska Children and Families Foundation assisted with this collaboration.
- "Hands for Growing" - St. Patrick's Parish in Sidney continued their annual summer program "Hands for Growing." Youth volunteers from the parish tend the garden of a local domestic violence shelter. While teaching simple skills to grow a healthy garden, youth leaders also teach skills needed to grow healthy relationships.

Parish / Catholic Community Outreach

- Annual Workshops for Parish Safe Environment Coordinators – Parishes, schools and programs have an assigned Safe Environment Coordinator to serve as a point of contact with the Diocesan Child Protection Office; train volunteers and staff; maintain records; and facilitate safe environment programming and child/ youth education efforts in their facility. Annual workshops for safe environment coordinators were held in the summer / fall of 2010 and summer of 2011. SECs were provided with updated information regarding initial training, background screening, documentation, response to allegations, and reporting. SECs were trained as trainers to present the 2010 / 2011 continuing education topic “From Safe Environments to Faith Environments: Furthering the Gospel Message of Christ.”
- Continuing Safe Environment Education – Parishes, programs and schools were provided with continuing education on the topic of “From Safe Environments to Faith Environments: Furthering the Gospel Message of Christ.” Corresponding parent information posters were distributed to parishes for display or use as bulletin announcements / inserts.
- “Right Relationships for Kids” – A program entitled “Right Relationships for Kids” was presented to middle and high school youth at St. Patrick’s Parish in Paxton and St. Bridget’s Parish in Hemmingford.
- “Festival of Faith” – Diocesan Conference of Catechists. The Child Protection Office sponsored an information booth describing Safe Environment resources within the Diocese and sponsored a pre-conference seminar “From Safe Environments to Faith Environments: Furthering the Gospel Message of Christ.”
- West Nebraska Register – The Child Protection Office continues to contribute a column to the Diocesan newspaper on a rotating basis with other Diocesan offices. The West Nebraska Register has run feature articles on Safe Environment topics and printed articles provided by the USCB SCYP for Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- Ministry Newsletter – The Diocesan Child Protection Office contributes to a monthly newsletter for catechists, lay ministers, employees, and volunteers produced by the ministry programs of the diocese (Religious Education, Youth Ministry, Hispanic Ministry, Lay Ministry, and Child Protection).
- Additional Parish Efforts
 - All Souls Parish in Bridgeport, Nebraska developed additional bulletin inserts on the topics of internet safety and “Summer Safety Tips for Parents and Families.”
 - St. Agnes Academy in Alliance, Nebraska facilitated abuse awareness discussions with their grade school and middle school students in a general assembly, followed by classroom discussion. An additional assembly focused on bullying and the school’s procedures for preventing and intervening.

Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, Montana

1. March 16-17, 2011 Diocesan Youth Conference – Breakout session on Safe Environments
2. Ordered new material for children on Internet Safety (grade school and middle school) Videos and paper resources for schools and parishes to check out.

3. 2010-2011 School Year at Great Falls Central Catholic High School Guest Speaker on on-line safety and phone usage.
4. Diocesan Newspaper *The Harvest*: How to Report Abuse announcements
5. Two Atonement Services led by Bishop Michael Warfel:
 - a. March 10, 2011, St. Patrick Co-Cathedral in Billings
 - b. March 11, 2011, St. Ann Cathedral in Great Falls

Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut

Safe Environment Coordinator has developed an abuse awareness training directed specifically to parish volunteers who visit vulnerable adults, such as home-bound, in nursing homes and hospitals. This offers an awareness of abuse, either physical or emotional, exploitation, or neglect of the elderly and infirmed. Presently, there are only five facilitators for this training, so there are a significant number of volunteers yet to be trained and complete background check forms. The Archdiocese has recommended this training as part of Safe Environment compliance even though it is not required by the *Charter*. We will continue to offer this training.

The Archdiocese requires *all parish employees* to complete a background check and attend VIRTUS training, even though they do not have contact with children. This request comes from the Director of Human Resources.

Office of Safe Environment received a request to present a demonstration of the *Child Lures* Prevention Program to local public schools. Our children's program coordinator presented the program to two public elementary schools to demonstrate how young children can learn age appropriate personal safety skills. Comments about the presentation were extremely favorable.

Office of Safe Environment staff attended six regional meetings of 65 diocesan school principals. These meetings allowed us the opportunity to personally meet the principals and to discuss in detail Safe Environment procedures that have been in place and to answer individual questions. We presented to them a process that includes generated reports of each school indicating compliance data of their school employees and volunteers.

Diocese of Honolulu, Hawaii

Child Abuse Prevention Month – April

During the month of April, Hawaii schools and parishes were provided with the most current statistics of child abuse cases within the state. In addition, they were provided with weekly articles via email (e news) which could be shared through parish bulletins and school newsletters.

Other Communication/Training:

Various e-mails and newsletters were distributed from the diocese to pastors, principals and Safe Environment Coordinators for the following events/activities:

1. Parish Self Audit resources provided by USCCB. (March 2011)

2. Individualized parish and school reports listing employees volunteers who have completed Safe Environment requirements (April 2011)
3. Shield the Vulnerable Portable Classroom session (December 2010)

Additional Actions

A number of schools and parishes enhanced their Safe Environment program by scheduling additional training and activities relevant to the safety and well-being of children/youth:

1. Children's Health Fair – identification cards, nutrition, swim/water safety, car seat safety, cycling safety, dental, storytelling (talking to strangers)
2. I Safe curriculum – enrichment class teaching students about ethical computer use and alerting them to cyber bullying and sexual predators posing online
3. D.A.R.E Program, Try-wait Abstinence program, St. Francis Health Care System – Healthy Lifestyles program
4. Internet Safety Workshops
5. First Aid & CPR Adult/Child Certification classes
6. Parent Workshops – topics covered: cyber bullying, internet safety, and child safety and abuse prevention
7. Smile Safe – photo registration provided by Life touch Photography
8. Guidance Programs/Quarterly Meetings – school counselor(s) covered various I safe and Lessons in advisory

Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana

Supervisors/Coordinators

Beginning approximately five years ago we established location supervisors and coordinators. Each location has a designated supervisor whose responsibility is to take care of the day-to-day paperwork of Safe Environment. They make sure all required paperwork is in order before an individual does training. Additionally the supervisor arranges in-house trainings with the location trainer when needed. Annually they contact persons who have been trained to inform them that it is time for an update or continuing education.

Location coordinators are the watch-dog, along with the pastor. Annually they fill out a parish report, to be sent to the diocesan Safe Environment Office, verifying information needed to complete the audit. Information such as, priests, staff, deacons, religious along with criminal background clearance and dates trained. They also review the list of individuals that work or have contact with children/youth.

Website

Three years ago with the establishment of an interactive website (www.htdiocese.org), a Safe Environment page was designed to disseminate information. Also on the site is the Victim Assistance hotline number, phone numbers to the various sheriff departments, phone numbers to the Office of Community Services in the civil parishes that make up Houma-Thibodaux along with links to the diocesan Policy for the Protection of Children and Young People and the diocesan Code of Professional Conduct for interested parties to print or read. On this page there are links to the various forms needed by the locations to distribute to people who are interested in working with children/youth.

Did You Know articles are also inserted onto the Safe Environment homepage to help inform people of child abuse and ways to protect children. This is updated every two weeks.

Also available to the location supervisors, password protected, is the diocesan database for Safe Environment. The diocese retains all criminal background history checks, initial training paperwork and sign-in sheets, and dates of continuing education on all individuals participating in Safe Environment trainings. This helps the location supervisors keep track of individuals' journey through Safe Environment.

This data, while maintained daily in the diocesan Safe Environment office, is updated monthly on the website. This has been a tremendous asset to the location supervisors.

The Safe Environment page also has a link to online training. The vendor is Safe and Sacred. This method of training has made Safe Environment trainings more accepted and available to the people of the diocese.

Victim Assistance Hotline Number

The Victim Assistance Hotline Number is published in various ways:

- The diocesan newspaper, *The Bayou Catholic*, first edition of the month in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.
- In parish bulletins, quarterly.
- Posters located in school offices, vestibules, and parish youth centers.
- Flyers given to catechists and youth ministers

Youth trainings

In addition of the educational piece on personal safety awareness required for children K – 12, which is entitled *Circle of Grace*, the diocese also mandates that children working with other children (VBS/CCD), go through Safe Environment training. This program familiarizes teens with types of child abuse. They also read and sign a Youth Code of Conduct. As locations do the trainings with the youth, the information is then sent to the Safe Environment office where this information is maintained in a database.

The Catholic high schools also require their students to go through this same training. The information is maintained by the schools.

Screenings on criminal history

In addition to a criminal search on individuals, all individuals submitting a criminal history check are sent to a national sex offender database for clearance (Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website).

Commitment Forms

Church ministry leaders sign a Commitment Form annually acknowledging they will abide by all diocesan guidelines for a Safe Environment for the Protection of Children and Young People. Failure to abide may lead to dismissal.

Location Inspections

As the diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator, I visit locations in the diocese (parishes and schools) periodically to inspect Safe Environment paperwork. At that time I also make inquiries to personnel to insure they knew diocesan policy and procedures.

April – Child Abuse Prevention Month

In the month of April all locations are given prayer cards and asked to keep all those abused in prayer during the month. Additionally, information sheets on various topics are sent to all locations. Each location distributes this information to the parents of the Catholic school children and the children in the parish religious education program via webpages, inserted into bulletins or hardcopies.

Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi

PUBLICATIONS:

The Diocese of Jackson publishes quarterly in the diocesan newspaper, *Mississippi Catholic*, the Diocese's commitment to ensure that children/youth being served by the church are not at risk of sexual abuse by church personnel. The procedure for reporting suspected child abuse and the Victim Assistance Coordinator's name and telephone number are included in the publication. The publication instructs the reader to refer to the diocesan website for policies and procedures in providing a safe environment for children/youth. Additionally, each parish in the diocese is required to publish the statement quarterly in the parish bulletin.

An article was published in the *Mississippi Catholic Newspaper* in August, 2010, defining the goals and purpose of the Diocesan Protection of Children Program. The Safe Environment Coordinator for the Office of Child Protection was interviewed for the article.

A Pastoral Minister in the Diocese of Jackson shared her personal experience with child sexual abuse in the *Mississippi Catholic Newspaper*, in August, 2010. The Pastoral Minister's daughter is a victim of child sexual abuse. The story is powerful and conveys the reality of child sexual abuse to our adults who work with children and youth.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH:

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, the Office of Child Protection recognized each site for the hard work and the positive efforts they are achieving in the Protection of Children Program. Child Abuse Prevention information was forwarded to the sites for sharing and distribution to their staff, volunteers and parents.

INTERNET SAFETY MONTH:

In recognition of Internet Safety Month in June, all sites were provided child safety resources on proper internet use. The Office of Child Protection stressed to the sites the importance of vigilance in educating our children on internet safety. Netsmartz newsletters are forwarded to all sites on a monthly basis.

SITE MEETINGS:

The Office of Child Protection presented three Training the Trainer sessions and six Protection of Children Database Training sessions during the audit year.

2011 NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION:

The Safe Environment Coordinator for the Office of Child Protection attended the NCEA Conference in New Orleans in March. There were safe environment and internet safety break-out sessions that provided a wealth of information relating to the growth of safe environment programs.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN WEBSITE:

All Protection of Children policy, training, reporting and children/youth curriculum documents are located on the Diocesan Protection of Children website.

Diocese of Joliet, Illinois

▪ Revised the *Parent Guide: Internet Safety for Children & Teens* (November 2010)

This revision was made by the Catholic Schools Office in order to provide an up-to-date guide for parents about internet safety for their children.

▪ Began efforts for a victim's support group in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Chicago and Rockford.

Realizing that much more can be accomplished through collaboration and sharing of resources, Mrs. Judith Speckman has been involved in attempting to establish a support group for victims with the above mentioned dioceses.

Diocese of Juneau, Alaska

Bishop Burns met with parishioners, called Town Hall Meetings and provided continual updates on our webpage when a priest was temporarily removed from ministry for suspected internet child pornography. The situation was handled with transparency and efficiency. Professionals were consulted and their recommendations were followed.

A nine month reflection/study group for victims of all forms of childhood abuse was again facilitated by the VAC and held in the evenings in the diocesan conference room. Catholics and non-Catholics were invited and participated. This was the third year that we offered the group and we continue to get requests to offer it again.

We maintain an extensive library of materials that may be used and borrowed by anyone in the community on the topics of sexual abuse, all forms of childhood abuse, spiritual growth, self esteem, boundaries and all forms of addiction.

Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan

- Mid-year *Preliminary* audit report was required of all local parishes and schools listing information on all clergy, employees, volunteers, educators, enrollment in religion classes information for current information and accuracy. This information is checked against information in VIRTUS database and assists parishes and schools to have everyone in compliance. The audit prompts good communication between parishes/schools and the diocesan office.
- Annual an *End of Year* audit report from all local parishes and schools is required reporting on all clergy, employees, volunteers, educators, enrollment in religion classes with attendance, opt out numbers and dates *Teaching Touching Safety* sessions were taught.
- The Diocese of Kalamazoo requires ALL employees, priests, deacons, candidates for ordination, and educators to read monthly continued training bulletins online provided by VIRTUS regardless whether they have contact with minors or not.
- All volunteers that have ongoing and unsupervised contact with minors are also required to read monthly continued training bulletins online provided by VIRTUS.

- After one year and after two years re-certification edition 1 (first year) and 2 (second year) are automatically required of ALL employees, priests, deacons, candidates for ordination, educators, and volunteers that are required to read monthly training bulletins. Re-certification is done online through VIRTUS.
- To reinforce the importance of the programs and the requirements of the diocese, the SE Office follows-up on all parish/school reports that report high opt out rates or absenteeism.
- The Diocese of Kalamazoo requires criminal background checks be renewed every five (5) years. This is the third year the renewals were due. We sent out notices and revised the release form to note whether the form is a "renewal" or new.
- Adjudication Process: Revised and implemented an adjudication procedure to involve a review committee and a rubric.
- Changed vendors for Out-of-State and Foreign background checks. We contracted with American Checked, Inc., Tulsa, OK. They conducted background checks with county court records, social security number tracking, and national Wants and Warrants search.
- Inservices were held to update catechists on Teaching Touching Safety for children, and to Catholic School Principals.
- Onsite training was provided to new local safe environment coordinators for continued efficient and effective implementation of the program as well as accuracy of reporting.

Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Missouri

- A committee was appointed to propose a social media use policy for the diocese. This was submitted for approval in June.
- Private Catholic Schools within our diocese continue to be involved in following the Charter Safety Education for Adults & Students by offering the Diocesan approved safety curriculum.
- June 9, 2011 Bishop Finn implemented a 5-Point Plan after abuse by a priest in the diocese was uncovered. "This review will help us to determine the effectiveness of diocesan safety policies and procedures in a very troubling situation," the Bishop explained.

Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas

- Brochures and handouts have been updated and continue to be distributed to parishes and schools, at Virtus® Awareness Sessions for Adults, and at meetings of principals, teachers and parish administrators as well as being available on the Archdiocesan website (<http://www.archkck.org/page.aspx?pid=548>).
- Onsite parish audits are conducted as part of the Parish Financial Audits and are also conducted as needed at the direction of the Safe Environment Coordinator. The onsite Parish Financial Audits and Safe Environment Program Audits are conducted on a three year cycle with each parish having an onsite audit at least once every three years. Onsite audits are also conducted whenever there is a pastor change.
- The *Reference Manual to Assist in the Implementation & Compliance for the Protection of Children & Youth* is distributed to all local parish/school coordinators as a guideline and reference tool.
- Virtus® Protecting God's Children for Adults awareness training dates and locations are posted on the Archdiocesan website and are also listed periodically in the Archdiocesan newspaper, the LEAVEN.
- The Archdiocesan Freedom from Pornography Initiative, "As For Me and My House", continues to be utilized in our parishes. The staff currently facilitates five Catholic Men's Recovery Groups and one Catholic Spousal Support Group. The Catholic Spousal Support Group is for women whose husbands are involved with pornography and they meet weekly.

Diocese of Knoxville, Tennessee

New Age-Appropriate Safe Environment Training for Kids

In an effort to implement a recommendation provided by our 2010 Safe Environment auditor (The Gavin Group), we created a committee of dedicated religious educators to create and implement a diocesan program for age-appropriate safe environment training for children in our parish/diocesan schools and our Religious Education Programs (previously we used a commercial program). This committee gathered information from numerous dioceses throughout the country and worked to create a new, comprehensive Safe Environment Program for our kids. This program is used in all of our parish/diocesan schools and parish religious education programs for grades kindergarten through high school. This age-appropriate curriculum includes: such topics as “good touches and bad touches”, “safe adults”, “safe secrets” and discusses scenarios kids might encounter so to equip them with the tools necessary to recognize and report potential abuse. As we all know, online safety and bullying have been a constant discussion in the classrooms and in the news. Our new, comprehensive program has been created in such a way that our children will be equipped to handle these situations as well. The intended audience and teachers like the new program.

New Eye-Catching Poster for Parishes and Schools

In an effort to implement a recommendation provided by our 2010 Safe Environment auditor (The Gavin Group), the Diocese of Knoxville developed a new, eye-catching poster (English and Spanish) for each of our parishes and schools to post in a prominent area that provides our procedure for reporting sexual abuse. These posters are posted at the following locations: in the narthex of each parish, in each parish office and each school office. Please see attached posters for reference

Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana

- The Diocese of Lafayette publicized and had many participants at an event sponsored by the Rucks Family Foundation (a private non-profit organization), “Unveiling the Social Consequences of Pornography: From Exile to Freedom”
- We are conducting on-site visits for our parishes and schools, using the Parish Self-Assessment Guide found on the USCCB website. During these visits, we meet one-on-one with the Pastor/Principal, DRE, Safe Environment Coordinator, Religion Teacher, Youth Minister
- Diocesan Safe Environment Director and Coordinator participate in continuing education through National, State, and Local conferences and workshops.

Diocese of Lafayette, Indiana

“Safe Conduct In-Service”:

Revision of Protocol from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011: a) Increased number of “Train the Trainers” Sessions by Fifty Percent; b) Changed the requirement for Mandatory Training for Volunteers from “contact three or more times in a year” to “any contact”; c) Changed 60-day timeframe “to be trained” to “immediate training before being in contact with minors”; and d) All of the above changes have been well received across our diocese. Written documentation of changes has been sent to all Trainers, Pastors, Principals, and Directors of Religious Education.

“Protecting God’s Children”:

1. Implemented direction from our new Bishop to verify training of parish Religious Education students in Public Schools if the parish does not offer the program.
2. Facilitated meetings with all parish liaisons for “Protecting God’s Children” Curriculum to introduce new requirements and reporting procedures (six regional meetings and twelve phone conferences).
3. Updated resources and locally developed Curriculum.
4. Provided additional resources from Diocese of St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Diocese of Lansing, Michigan

1. St Francis Retreat Center sponsors a weekend spiritual retreat experience for those who identify themselves as victims of clerical sexual abuse from any diocese called “A Time to Heal”. The Retreat was offered one (1) time during the past audit period. Four (4) participants participated in this retreat. It is led by the priest spiritual director at the retreat center along with two (2) women who are clinical social workers. One of the main features of the retreat is a Saturday morning meeting with the Bishop to listen to the stories of the victims so that he can listen and hear what victims have to say and for the Bishop to extend his apologies in a personal manner.

The participants of the retreat are invited back for a day-long follow-up recollection which occurred two (2) times during the past year. Previous participants are welcome to attend. The follow-up offers ongoing spiritual support for the participant’s journey toward healing and well-being. This past year thirteen (13) people participated in the follow days of recollection.

2. St Francis Retreat Center also offered a weekend spiritual retreat for others who were sexually abused by non-church perpetrators. This past year one (1) retreat was offered that served six (6) persons. One follow-up session was held that served seven (7) persons who had attended previous retreats for ongoing spiritual support in their journey toward healing.
3. Background checks now include a Department of Human Services Central Registry Clearance.
4. We continue to offer safe environment training to the Eastern rite churches located in the Diocese of Lansing; the Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist; and staff at parochial schools located in the Diocese of Lansing that are not part of the Diocese of Lansing structure.
5. Conducted audits of parishes, schools, and other agencies in the diocese.
6. Require all volunteers working with minors to complete safe environment training.
7. Introduced a new program for grades K-5, authored by Todd Gale, who is the Director of Religious Education and Youth Minister at one of our parishes. The program, *Safe Sheep in our Flock* has been well received by schools and parishes in the diocese.

Diocese of Laredo, Texas

- Blue ribbons were provided to all staff in recognition of April – Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ribbons were worn by staff the entire month.

Staff comments have been positive; they enjoy having participation in the child abuse prevention and wear the ribbon proudly.

- Radio announcements on KHOY (diocesan catholic radio station)- recorded in Spanish and English with parenting tips, prevention resources and reporting laws.
- Informational resource links to USCCB and other sites were available on the diocesan website throughout the month of April.
- Memorandum – announcing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Memo sent to all employees.
- Child abuse prevention educational materials were provided to diocesan employees in the month of April.

Employees call to express their gratitude for the educational materials and comment on how they can share these with family and friends.

- The Chancery displayed a month long informational board on child abuse prevention for the public to view.

Many people commented on how well the board represented the prevention message and how original the display itself was.

- Pastoral Center displayed month long informational boards on child abuse prevention for the public to view.

Visitors to the center commented on how it was a good way to inform the public of the need to protect children from abuse. This project was well accepted and participation from staff was excellent.

- Some parishes participated in the month long informational board on child abuse prevention. Those who participated enjoyed the project and were excited about the opportunity to make a public display of their commitment.
- E-mails with prevention resources sent to diocesan employees in the month of April.

Employees enjoy the ease of reading materials on their time and having the ability to print information at their convenience.

- Material from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services website was emailed to staff. Staff is now more familiar with the excellent resources that are available through this website.

Diocese of Las Vegas, Nevada

1. FINGERPRINTING ALL EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS REGARDLESS OF POSITION.

In 2009, the Diocese of Las Vegas initiated a policy requiring fingerprint background checks of *all* employees and *all* volunteers regardless of position. These background checks are processed through

local law enforcement as well as through the F.B.I. at a direct cost to the Diocese of approximately \$50 each. This has resulted in a significant increase in expenses for each parish and the Diocese as a whole.

2. USE OF REVIEW BOARD BEYOND CONFINES OF THE CHARTER.

The Diocese of Las Vegas consults with its Review Board on situations of alleged inappropriate conduct that may not rise to the level of sexual misconduct by clergy with children. For instance, allegations and the corresponding investigations involving lay, adult employees are discussed as well.

3. CENTRALIZED PAYROLL/ACCOUNTING/FINGERPRINT TRACKING.

The Diocese of Las Vegas requires that the fingerprinting of all employees and volunteers be centralized through the Diocese (specifically through the Diocesan Payroll and Benefits Administrator). The Diocese of Las Vegas feels this measure provides additional control and verification that each employee/volunteer is indeed fingerprinted. Moreover, any positive result on any background check is referred through the Vicar General for review and evaluation thereby providing additional oversight in the process of determining whether volunteers and employees are fit for the positions intended.

Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California

The Becoming Home Program began July 22, 2010, and continued monthly from September 2010, to April 14, 2011. A total of 17 international priests were involved in the Pilot program, which included 35 hours of content.

Grateful for the ministry these priests provide, the Archdiocese designed a comprehensive program to provide them with basic, practical skills and information needed in order to effectively minister in the United States. The program included a special segment entitled "Safeguarding and Forming Our Children."

The Becoming Home Orientation Program will be held each year in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Archdiocese of Los Angeles Safeguard the Children Parish Committee Handbook

The goal of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Safeguard the Children has been to support and provide training and resources for the Safeguard the Children Parish Committees, which are the foundation of our efforts to protect children and young people from child sexual abuse. The *Archdiocese of Los Angeles Safeguard the Children Parish Committee Handbook* was created to help parishes and schools fulfill this role and include practical guidance and ideas in the following six areas:

- Archdiocese of Los Angeles Policies and Procedures
- Safe Environment Programs and Resources
- Parish/School Site Safety
- Parish/School Policies, Programs and Events
- USCCB Safe Environment Pre-Audit and Audit Process
- Child Abuse Prevention Month

This resource is available at: <http://www.la-archdiocese.org/org/protecting/>

Media Relations Outreach to the Hispanic Community

The Office of Media Relations for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles works closely with secular and Catholic media outlets to inform and outreach to our Catholic community – as well as the other diverse communities of Southern California – regarding issues pertaining to the Archdiocese. This year, the Office of Media Relations collaborated with El Sembrador (ESNE) TV to broadcast a series of programs during April 2011, Child Abuse Prevention Month, highlighting the Safeguard the Children programs of the Archdiocese. The Office of Media Relations worked closely with the production staff at El Sembrador to provide interview guests and to frame the subject matter of each program covering different topics concerning abuse prevention, awareness and education.

Archdiocese of Los Angeles Collaborates with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles continues to work cooperatively with government agencies as we feel this is an important long-range dimension in child abuse prevention. The Archdiocesan Office of Victims Assistance Ministry serves on a Clergy Advisory Board to the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. This Advisory Board attempts to integrate spirituality with mental health issues. In 2011 audit year, the Victims Assistance Coordinator was an adjunct member of the Department of Mental Health's committee to set parameters/guidelines for clinicians to explore the topic of spirituality with its clients. In the 2012 audit year, the Victims Assistance Coordinator is taking a leadership role to connect individual parishes with their local Department of Mental Health centers to provide resources for parishioners' emotional and spiritual well-being.

Contribution to John Jay College Study

The Archdiocesan Office of Victims Assistance Ministry participated in the survey for Victims Assistance Coordinators for the John Jay College study just released ["The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States, 1950-2010: A Report Presented to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops by the John Jay College Research Team," May 18, 2011].

Diocese of Lubbock, Texas

The Diocese provided each parish with 2 posters that provided the contact information for the Victims Assistants Coordinator. The posters were created by the USCCB. The posters were placed in the schools, catechetical centers, and church buildings.

The Diocese provided the Call to Protect Training of the Trainer two day training. The Diocese now has 83 trainers for the Called to Protect Training for children, youth and all adults.

Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin

The Diocese of Madison through the Office of Safe Environment continues to work with and educate parishioners on issues related to the prevention of sexual abuse of minors. The Safe Environment program provides the Diocese with ongoing training and resources; so that all members of the Diocese can be aware and knowledgeable of the causes and signs of sexual abuse of minors, the steps to take to protect minors, and what procedures to follow if abuse is suspected.

The Safe Environment Data Base is continuously updated throughout the year with current information, articles, and resources to help provide educators and staff with the tools they need to get critical information out to parents, guardians and children. Listed below are two publications that were placed on the Safe Environment Data Base. The Safe Environment Office also supported and asked parishes to host a Take 25 event for the National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

“A Parent’s Guide to Internet Safety.” Publication provided from the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigations

“Vanishing, Self-Destructing Texting, and Electronic Communications.” Publication provided by Virtus®.

Diocese of Marquette, Michigan

1. Began a re-processing of the criminal background checks for all employees and volunteers who have already had criminal background checks. The re-checking will be done on a scheduled rotating basis.
2. The Bishop working through the Diocesan Priests’ Council had put in place a funeral policy for all clergy who have been removed from active ministry under the Dallas Charter.
3. A more thorough and comprehensive monitoring system for those clergy who have been removed from active ministry under the Dallas Charter has been put into operation. The monitoring system now includes regularly scheduled home visitations of the removed clerics.

Archdiocese of Miami, Florida

April Marketing Campaign

The Archdiocese of Miami embarked on a marketing campaign for April—Child Abuse Prevention Month. We sent a series of bulletins to parishes and schools to be included in their bulletins and newsletters sequentially throughout the month. At least two bulletins were provided each week. All of the bulletins addressed areas of concern regarding the safety of children such as internet safety, selecting a summer camp, the use and misuse of cell phone cameras and even texting lingo and sexting. Additionally, we ran several articles in the Florida Catholic Newspaper addressing the importance of providing a safe environment and the Catholic Church’s response to abuse. This included a letter from the Archbishop, Frequently Asked Questions, Myths about the internet and children and the upcoming Virtus Training schedule. These articles were also placed on our website as well as additional resources link to assist those looking for more information on this topic.

Establishing Local Coordinators

This year we created a Local Coordinator post at each parish/school. This role was created to assist the Safe Environment Coordinator for the Archdiocese. The Local Coordinator, selected by the Pastor and/or Principal, takes on the task of compliance and record keeping of the Safe Environment Policy for their site. This includes the records of Virtus training, fingerprinting and code of conduct forms for all employees and volunteers. The Local Coordinator also keeps track of the continuing training on line of the Virtus program for those working/volunteering with children and vulnerable adults. Finally the Local Coordinator will also verify the completion of the Virtus program for children in both our schools and our CCD programs.

Safe Environment Presentations

The Safe Environment staff gave a presentation at the Department of School's Principals' meeting emphasizing the importance of continued due diligence with regard to our policies and perhaps added emphasis on internet safety and a growing concern regarding sexting. We provided them with additional resources they may utilize on this specific topic. We also requested that they send out the Teaching Touching Safety Guidebook to parents of those children that opted out and those that were absent from the lessons. In this way we provided material to all the children in our schools and catechist programs. A similar presentation was given at the Religious Education Department's meeting for their Director's of Religious Education. Here too we emphasized the importance of continued compliance.

Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

- Archdiocesan staff cooperated in planning for and participated in an international conference by Marquette University: "Harm, Hope, and Healing: International Dialogue on the Clergy Sex Abuse Scandal," sponsored by the Law School's Restorative Justice Initiative. The conference featured the stories of abuse victims, the impact of the scandal on other clergy, and panelists from Australia, Ireland and across the United States as it examined the path to healing from the scandal. Presentation of the Restorative Justice Healing Circle DVD, a previous collaborative of Marquette and the Archdiocese, was also provided.
- Candlelight Vigils continued to be held in various parishes as a collaboration between the VAC and a group of priests.
- Initiated Safe Environment Week. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee dedicated the first week of April, during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, as Safe Environment Week. Activities that took place during this week include:
 - ❖ A poster contest for all grade levels in schools and religious education programs where children and youth created posters reflecting what Safeguarding All of God's Family means to them.
 - ❖ The Safe Environment Coordinator and an agent with the FBI were on Archbishop ListECKI's Living Our Faith radio program to talk about safe environment.
 - ❖ The Catholic Herald did a feature story on Safe Environment
 - ❖ The Safe Environment Coordinator wrote a Blog that appeared on the Archdiocesan website
 - ❖ The Living Our Faith website featured a story on St Francis de Sales Seminary and their formation of seminarians regarding safe environment
 - ❖ Bulletin announcements were sent out for parishes
 - ❖ Homily helps for safe environment were sent to clergy
- In April a Mass of Atonement was celebrated by the Archbishop. This will be an annual event, located at different parishes throughout the Archdiocese. He also dedicated his weekly e-mail communication to priests, deacons, pastoral staffs and parish leadership to this topic.
- Mandatory Reporting training was held.
- Safe Environment Coordinator continued to visit parishes and schools. In addition, Safe Environment Coordinator conducts random compliance audits.

- The Independent Mediation System continued to provide opportunities for outreach, reconciliation and restitution until suspended by Chapter 11 proceedings.
- The annual Accountability Report to the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee delineating information about clergy sexual abuse and diocesan response continued.

Diocese of Monterey, California

1. The Diocese of Monterey has implemented a web-based method of reporting complaints of sexual misconduct and/or financial misconduct via a web program, EthicsPoint. This allows a reporting party to remain anonymous during the process and allows the Diocese of Monterey to ask questions of the reporting party. Please see www.dioceseofmonterey.org for more information and a link to EthicsPoint.
2. Sr. Patricia Murtagh, I.M, Director of the Department for the Protection of Children and Young People and the Safe Environment Program, has held numerous conferences to inform parents about child abuse and prevention. The programs she has used include *Parent Guide-Think First & Stay Safe! How to Protect Children & Teens*.
3. The Diocese of Monterey publishes a monthly newsletter, "*What's Happening in the Diocese of Monterey?*" The newsletter reminds employees about the need to clear all priests from outside the Diocese of Monterey who provide coverage for liturgies, facilitate retreats, provide workshops, preside at weddings or baptisms etc. The newsletter also includes Do's and Don'ts for a Safe Environment.
4. Sr. Patricia Murtagh maintains a library of materials on a Safe Environment, child abuse and related subjects which may be lent out to parishes and schools.
5. Sr. Patricia Murtagh trains Catechists who in turn, train children on how to stay safe and what to do if they are unsafe.
6. Sr. Patricia Murtagh has mandated new posters for each parish that include the toll free reporting number for those who may have been abused by a priest or anyone associated with the Diocese of Monterey and has also verified that each parish has the posters on display in a prominent location.
7. Sr. Patricia Murtagh has created Bookmarks, "Make a Difference in the Life of Your Child," which includes safety suggestions. (Bilingual)
8. The Diocese of Monterey recently adopted a new program, "Circle of Grace," a proven and tested safe environment curriculum for children and youth (Bilingual) for use in the parishes and schools.
9. An online safe environment training course in English and Spanish. "Shield the Vulnerable" is now available as an individualized, interactive online course for parishes and schools. The course takes 1 to 1.5 hours.
10. Each parish in the Diocese of Monterey has a Safe Environment Coordinator who is responsible for ensuring that parish practices follow the guidelines of the Safe Environment Program.

11. Sr. Patricia Murtagh attended the National Safe Environment and Victim Assistance Coordinators Leadership Conference in Burlington, Vermont - May 1-6, 2011.
12. Sr. Patricia Murtagh attends The Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) the first Monday of every month, the CASP Community Alliance for Safety and Peace meetings when scheduled.
13. Diocesan representatives sit on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council of Monterey County which meetings every month.

Diocese of Newark, New Jersey

1. Ordered Shield the Vulnerable suite of classes for children

In order to provide catechetical children with another option for safe environment education, we ordered the Shield the Vulnerable suite of online courses:

- Safety Smarts for Kids - Grade 4
- Block the Bully - Grade 5
- Be Safe, Stay Safe - Grade 6
- Bullying, Not Cool - Grades 7 and 8
- Dating Abuse (Teens)
- Cyber Safety (Teens)
- Teen Safety (Teens)

This coming fall, we will be piloting the courses in select parishes to gauge the interest and effectiveness.

2. An audit of Clergy files has been undertaken by the Office of Clergy Personnel and the office for the Permanent Diaconate. All files are being consolidated at the Chancery.

3. Drafted the first version of a **Guidelines for Electronic Communication with Youth** with the Youth Ministry Office. So far, it's been positively received.

4. Purchased two new lessons (7 and 8) for use this past audit year in our **Teaching Touching Safety** program in the Catholic schools. Lesson 7 is on Internet Safety, and Lesson 8 is on setting Family Rules. They were positively received and considered very timely.

5. Started a bi-annual **Office of Child and Youth Protection newsletter**, entitled For The Children. Two issues were produced: Fall 2010 and Spring 2011.

Archdiocese of New Orleans, Louisiana

Safe Environment worked with the Office of Catholic Schools to offer a panel on bullying for the 44th Annual Catholic Administrators Conference.

The panel participants: Stacie LeBlanc, J.D. Audrey Hepburn Care Center
 Richard Bordelon, Archdiocesan Attorney
 Annie Crapanzano, PH.D., Loyola University
 Brian Credo, M.D., Pediatrician, Tulane University
 Ralph Brandt, J.D., Asst. District Attorney, N.O.

Marguerit Celestin, President, St. Scholastica Academy

Established a bullying task force with the Office of Catholic Schools, Catholic school principals, counselors, and teachers. We are working on a policy for the Archdiocese, a video project for students and parents, and a parent handout.

April- Archbishop Gregory Aymond received a tree from the Audrey Hepburn Child Abuse Center in memory of a child who died as a direct result of abuse in the last year. The Archdiocese was recognized for its work in the area of child abuse prevention.

October – sent out information on Halloween Safety to parishes and schools in the Archdiocese.

December – sent out information on Holiday Safety to parishes and schools in the Archdiocese.

March – sent our Mardi Gras Safety tips for children and teens and tweens.

Safe Environment articles in the Clarion Herald –

September 11, 2010 - Archbishop introducing the three new companies we began working with in Safe Environment.

January 15, 2011 – “Safe Environment vital issue for parishes, parents”.

April 23, 2011 – “Shelby Has A Secret” article.

May 21, 2011 – “Vatican orders bishops to draft abuse guidelines” and “Local safe environment training effective”.

May 28, 2011 – Child Abuse Prevention Mass article.

Coach Sean Payton, New Orleans Saints, spoke to our high school and middle school coaches, “How can we help our students as they strive to be leaders on the field and in the community?” and “How can we teach our students to use the gifts of all of the members of the team for the advancement of the team and to lead each other to Christ?” This was a result of some situations brought to our attention in relation to locker room bullying and the way some of our athletes were treating other students.

“Shelby Has A Secret”, written by Eydie Comeaux and illustrated by Monique Rodrigue. In April a copy of the book, which has a forward written by Archbishop Gregory Aymond, was donated for each child in our parish religion programs and our Catholic schools, grades K – 6. There was a press conference at one of our elementary schools with Archbishop Aymond. The books were generously donated by Acme Oyster House and the Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Sr. Mary Ellen Wheelahan, Safe Environment Coordinator, created a Safe Environment Review Sheet for the students, teachers, and their parents. This took the message of the book and combined it with the Safe Environment program used in the Archdiocese.

April 10, 2011 – Prevent Child Abuse Mass at St. Louis Cathedral. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Aymond.

Sr. Mary Ellen Wheelahan, SE Coordinator, is on the Prevention Coalition, which is at the Children’s Advocacy Center (Audrey Hepburn Center), Children’s Hospital. This coalition brings together professionals from social services, healthcare, and law enforcement for dialogue and work on issues related to child abuse prevention.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans, through Safe Environment and Catholic Charities, worked with Crimestoppers, New Orleans, in their Teen Ambassadors program. Crimestoppers is also working in our schools presenting crime prevention programs.

Archdiocese of New York City, New York

1. The Safe Environment Office instituted a new continuing education/training refresher for staff. In Fall 2010, we sent a continuing education newsletter to all schools and religious education programs. This newsletter was to be distributed to the staff or covered at a faculty/staff meeting. All principals and DRE's certified back to us that they conveyed the continuing education information to their staffs.
2. The Safe Environment Office also introduced a new online continuing education program for principals and DRE's. This online learning module was offered, beginning in the Spring of 2011, to provide refreshers on how to implement the Code of Conduct, the importance of maintaining professional boundaries, and how to address violations of the Code.

Diocese of Norwich, Connecticut

- In November 2010, a brochure titled *Safe Environments in the Diocese of Norwich- Recognizing and Setting Boundaries: A Guide for Volunteers* was written as a training tool for those volunteers who are under the age of 18. It is required that all minor volunteers read this as part of their safe environments training. It has been well received by everyone involved.
- Twice a year, in January and July, all parishes, schools and institutions receive a Status Report from the Office for Safe Environments. This report details the actions needed to be compliant with diocesan policies with regard to the *Charter*. In September of 2010, a database was created so the Office for Safe Environments could track each component for each area of concern and evaluate compliance status with diocesan policies. The diocesan organizations are then aware of which areas of concern they must work on in order to be compliant or maintain compliance. The feedback on this new format was very positive.
- Maintaining Safe Environments screening and training records of diocesan personnel and volunteers is an enormous task. It is essential that all information received by the Office for Safe Environments be recorded and handled with both accuracy and confidentiality. As we are always looking for ways to improve this, the Bishop's Delegate to Safe Environments and the Director of Safe Environments attended a ParishSoft, Inc. training session in June 2011. ParishSoft is a technology company that offers a Safe Environments component to the online database program that many parishes and dioceses use.
- A *Called to Protect* facilitators training course was offered by the Office for Safe Environments to representatives from diocesan schools, parishes and institutions. Praesidium Inc. conducted the training. Thirty new trained facilitators are now available to conduct *Called to Protect* workshops to their respective organizations. The training session was both informative and interesting.
- A Sexual Abuse Refresher Course, provided online through Praesidium, Inc. was required of all priests, deacons and child advocates. It was available beginning February 2011 and is ongoing. The clergy appreciated the fact that a review of safe environments training could be completed online, at their leisure, as opposed to attending a workshop.

Diocese of Oakland, California

Ministry to Survivors of Clergy Sexual Abuse

The Diocese of Oakland supports a group entitled ***No More Secrets*** which is committed to the support of survivors of clergy abuse. The group, consisting of survivors and their family members, meet every other month. The gathering is facilitated by a licensed clinical psychologist and staffed by the Victim Assistance Coordinator. ***No More Secrets*** group meets for two hours on the first Saturday of every other month at a local Catholic Elementary School which donates the site. It is a drop-in event and numbers vary. Participants are most grateful for the on-going support.

April – Child Abuse Prevention Month

Recognizing our responsibility for the on-going education of adults, youth and children, Diocese of Oakland officially recognizes Child Abuse Prevention Month. Packets of resources, materials and web sites are made available to parishes and schools for use during the month of April to bring increased awareness to the issue of child abuse. In addition, brochures highlighting the recognition, prevention and reporting of abuse of all kinds, have been created and made available on the Diocesan web site. The materials provide updated statistics and facts, information about various agencies, liturgical and prayer resources, as well as, templates for bulletin inserts, newsletters and promotion. Though use of these references are re-published and stressed in April, they are ready to access and use throughout the year.

Communication

A Safe Environment monthly newsletter is published on the web site. The issues deal with timely, relevant themes of interest to parents and caregivers, pastors, parishioners and school families. These publications are meant to be used in part or whole by all. An archive folder contains past issues published during the year. Past themes with related links for further information have included Bullying, Social Network safety, child safety away from home, to name a few.

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

I. Safe Environment Office Parish Reviews. Although parishes and schools are required to annually complete a Religious Education Report and Verification as well as a Safe Environment Report which are submitted to the Archdiocesan Director of Religious Education and the Safe Environment Coordinator, respectively, the Archdiocese has initiated on-site reviews of parishes and schools to assess the extent of Charter compliance at the parish level and provide corrective instruction where needed. The on-site visits include interviews, record keeping, safe environment training, etc. Following the review the Safe Environment Coordinator completes a written report with any required corrective actions and recommendations. This report is furnished to the parish/school. If necessary, the Safe Environment Coordinator follows-up with a second on-site review.

II. Education/Program/Curriculum Development

A. Safe Environment Policy: the Responsibilities of Director of Religious Education and Coordinator of Youth Ministry - Annually, and as requested throughout the year, the Director of Religious Education provides orientation sessions for new catechetical leaders. A portion of the orientation is dedicated to a presentation on what their role is in implementing the Safe Environment Policies of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. For additional information please contact Pat Koenig, 405-751-5651, ext. 126, pkoenig@catharchdioceseokc.org.

B. Annual Parish Facilitator Workshop – This workshop for Parish Facilitators and others in youth ministries is offered annually through the Office of Safe Environment. The program varies with key note speakers on topics of interest including reporting, abuse detection, etc. This year focused on social networking and it's utilization in ministry. Suggested policies and practices were also reviewed. Orientation trainings for new Parish Facilitators are offered throughout the year. For additional information please contact Janet Engstrand, Office of Safe Environment, 405-721-5651, ext. 150, jengstrand@catharchdioceseokc.org.

C. How to Teach the Safe Environment Curriculum -- This is a workshop for catechists offered by the Religious Education Department. (The workshop is offered throughout the year.) The workshop is offered in English and Spanish. The reaction of catechists is very positive. For additional information please contact Pat Koenig, 405-721-5651, ext. 126, pkoenig@catharchdioceseokc.org.

D. Maintaining Safe Boundaries. Workshops are offered annually in August to all new teachers and new seminarians and as requested throughout the year. The workshop and power point presentation is tailored to the specific group. For additional information please contact Sister Catherine Powers, 405-721-5651, ext. 101, cpowers@catharchdioceseokc.org.

E. Safe Environment Curriculum. The Archdiocese has purchased the rights to an elementary level safe environment curriculum, Circles of Grace, developed by the Archdiocese of Omaha. It will provide a comparable curriculum in English and Spanish. There is a parent component in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. A training session in will be held in October 2011 to familiarize catechetical leaders and catechists with the program and present suggestions for implementation of the new curriculum. It will be offered in 2011-2012 as an alternative to the current elementary level safe environment curriculum. We anticipate in 2011-2012 grades K-12 will be will using Circles of Grace in English or Spanish. This program has a formal evaluation process that will be utilized. For additional information please contact Pat Koenig, 405-751-5651, ext. 126, pkoenig@catharchdioceseokc.org.

F. Parent Education. A brochure published in English and Spanish, *Teaching Safe Environment to Your Children: Your Rights, Our Responsibilities* was distributed for use in parishes. This brochure as well as others was developed by a parish catechetical leader in consultation with the Director of Religious Education and the Safe Environment Coordinator. Parish catechetical leaders appreciate the additional parent training materials and find them helpful when promoting the Safe Environment curriculum with parents. For additional information please contact Pat Koenig, 405-751-5651, ext. 126, pkoenig@catharchdioceseokc.org.

G. Technology Curriculum -- The Technology Curriculum which includes internet safety and abuse prevention information and training is offered to all Catholic School children. The Curriculum is available to all parents on the Archdiocesan website under: Chancery Offices; Education; Schools; Curriculum. The Technology Curriculum has been well-received by parents and students. For additional information please contact Cris Carter, 405-721-5651, ext 128, ccarter@catharchdioceseokc.org.

H. Technology and Boundaries Workshop – A workshop, *Legal Leadership Lessons from the Laptop*, was presented by Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler in June of 2011. Dr. Wannemuelher is a national lecturer on the topic of education law. Her presentation focused on the use of technology and social media in ministry. She discussed situations, challenges, responses that arise with using technology in ministry and the charism of setting boundaries. The workshop was offered to directors of religious education, youth

ministry coordinators and Catholic school principals. Pat Koenig, 405-751-5651, ext. 126, pkoenig@catharchdioceseokc.org.

III. Community Outreach

A. Oklahoma County Child Abuse Prevention Task Force (CAP Task Force, successor to District Task Force). The Office of Safe Environment is active in the CAP Task Force. A major activity during the audit period was participating in the planning Oklahoma's Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities and Child Abuse Prevention Day at the Capitol and participating in these activities. The Faith Based Committee for Child Abuse Prevention was chaired by the Safe Environment Coordinator; this was the third year for this effort. The focus of the committee is to expand the number of faith based communities involved in Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities and Day at the Capitol. For additional information please contact Jennifer Goodrich, Victim Assistance Coordinator, Office of Safe Environment, 405-721-5651, ext. 150, jgoodrich@catharchdioceseokc.org.

IV. Internal Coordination -- Safe Environment Committee. When the Archdiocese implemented its Safe Environment Program it was evident that the Program involved many areas: Religious Education, Education, Youth Ministries, Victims Assistance, Legal and the Hispanic Community. Accordingly, an *ad hoc* committee was formed to coordinate. The listed departments plus Family Life and the Archdiocesan Database Administrator meet monthly to discuss questions received from the Parish Facilitators and others, review procedures, plan and coordinate strategies, etc. For additional information please contact Janet Engstrand, Safe Environment Coordinator, Office of Safe Environment, 405-721-5651, ext. 150, jengstrand@catharchdioceseokc.org.

Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska

The victim outreach and prevention manager serves on the metropolitan child advocacy prevention committee. This committee organizes community awareness and outreach for child abuse prevention month (April).

The victim outreach and prevention manager is the archdiocesan representative for the local investigative team. This team is mandated by law (LB1184) to have a multi-agency committee for review and collaboration of difficult child abuse cases.

The coordinator of human resources and school improvement is the archdiocesan representative for the local foster care treatment team. This team is mandated by the law (LB1184) to have a multi-agency committee for review and collaboration of difficult foster care cases.

The victim outreach and prevention manager has been on the planning committee for the national victim assistance/safe environment conference for four years and assisted with the orientation of the new safe environment coordinators at the last conference. The Archdiocese of Omaha and the Diocese of Grand Island will be co-hosting the next national conference in August 2012.

The Archdiocese of Omaha's Anti-Pornography Task Force has disseminated prevention information in all safe environment training packets and parent *Circle of Grace* material. The Task Force provided our men's fellowship groups with a DVD and study guide that focuses on the negative effects of pornography.

The archdiocese has established recovery groups (men and women) for those struggling with pornography addiction. All clergy received information on the groups. The information is also on the archdiocese website.

The Archdiocese of Omaha is currently providing supportive outreach and paying for counseling to a victim from the Diocese of Lincoln.

The Archdiocese of Omaha has made available to other archdiocese/diocese its children/youth prevention program *Circle of Grace* for a reasonable fee. Fourteen (arch) dioceses are currently using the program. We now have it translated in Spanish that is available at no cost when the program is purchased. The archdiocese is committed to assisting those who have purchased the program with successful implementation.

The Archdiocese of Omaha developed a protestant version of *Circle of Grace*. This version has been piloted and is available for purchase. Twenty one ecclesial communities have purchased the program. The archdiocese developed an adult safe environment program called *Circle of Care*.

This program was implemented in the archdiocese July 2010. This adult program correlates with The archdiocese's children and youth *Circle of Grace* program, thus providing a more comprehensive and seamless approach to ensuring a safe environment for children and youth. It is being offered to other dioceses that use the *Circle of Grace* program.

The victim outreach and prevention manager is a member for a statewide inner church task force on "bullying and date violence". This ecumenical group is looking at ways churches can help the community with these issues. The committee received a grant to provide outreach for churches regarding these issues. Resources are being developed and will be distributed 2012.

The victim outreach and prevention manager is a member of the presidium review board for the Benedictines of Mount Michael Abbey.

The victim outreach and prevention manager assisted in developing grade specific parent newsletters. These newsletters provide parents with key information regarding formation and education on the Church's teaching on sexuality. These are distributed when the children/youth receive the *Circle of Grace* lessons. They will be offered to other dioceses using the *Circle of Grace* program.

Diocese of Orange, California

1. Safe Environment Coordinators and Chancellor participated in the 2011 National Safe Environment Conference, Burlington, Vermont, May 1 – May 6, 2011. VAC participated in National VAC Conference,
2. In collaboration with the Office of Youth and young Adult Ministry, the SE Coordinator held mandatory meetings for all Youth Ministers and Confirmation Coordinators covering Safe Environment requirements and offering updated SE program information for youth.
3. Safe Environment Coordinator organized the diocesan wide observance of *April Child Abuse Prevention Month*. During the month of April 2011. Resources were provided which included the following

resources for all parishes, schools and centers: Liturgy resources such as homily hints, Prayers, bulletin announcements and posters.

4. The SE Office held a luncheon meeting for all parish and school Safe Environment Coordinators and Custodians of (fingerprint) Records in April, 2011. A booklet "Guidelines for Fingerprinting and Safe Environment" was distributed containing updated information.
5. The Diocesan General Counsel offered a workshop "Working Together to Protect and Heal" in October 2010. This was a continuing education seminar for the Diocesan Review Board and others covering these topics:
 - The History & Necessity of Oversight Review Boards
 - Current Trends & Issues
 - Canon Law and its Relationship with Oversight Review Boards
 - Investigative Protocols
 - Computer & Internet Awareness

Diocese of Orlando, Florida

On June 1, 2010, Bishop Thomas Wenski was installed as the Archbishop of Miami. Fr. Richard Walsh was appointed as the Diocesan Administrator. On December 16, 2010, Bishop John Noonan was installed as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Orlando. Because of the fact that we have a new bishop and several new executive level leaders, this has not been a year in which many changes have been incorporated.

Our relationship with PrideRock, which handles our fingerprinting needs, remains in place. All employees and volunteers continue to register online to be background screened and can select from one of six locations to be physically fingerprinted. During the registration process, applicants are provided with a bar code, which also must be presented when accessing the online Safe Environment training. The bar code allows us to link both levels of clearances, which also has helped with record keeping.

The use of online Safe Environment training for the Diocese of Orlando volunteers and employees works quite well. Applicants simply access the website and view a video entitled "Protecting Our Children." In order to fulfill their Safe Environment training requirement, applicants take the online test, the results of which are transmitted to our Human Resources Office.

In May of 2011, a team consisting of the Chancellor, former Superintendent of Schools, Associate Superintendent of Schools, Human Resources Senior Director/Safe Environment Coordinator, Pastoral Ministries Secretariat/Victims Advocate, and former Religious Education Director, researched and recommended a safe environment program for all children enrolled in religious education programs and schools to Bishop Noonan for inclusion to the curriculum. Bishop Noonan approved the program, which is a new edition of the RCL Benziger Family Life. The program provides a comprehensive moral catechesis and addresses complex issues of contemporary family life within the context of Catholic Faith. Safety education along with the promotion of virtuous living through Catholic identity is addressed at every grade level. The Diocese of Orlando is currently working on a roll-out schedule for the 2012-2013 school year. Our Faith Formation Directors have already been introduced to the program.

In addition, the Diocese of Orlando has been reviewing a specialized safe environment program for international priests, which was created by VIRTUS. We expect to introduce this program during the audit year 2012/2013.

Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky

The Diocese conducted a *Prayer for Protection & Healing* service on April 11, 2011 in conjunction with National Child Abuse Prevention Month at St. Stephen Cathedral. Bishop Medley presided at the well-attended service that was publicized in the diocesan *Western Kentucky Catholic* newspaper as well as the local newspaper. Services will be conducted annually in varying locations throughout the diocese.

Diocese of Palm Beach, Florida

- 1) We reached out to the Grandparents in our Diocese with meetings designed especially for them as significant people in children's lives, who are often in a position of caregiver. We discussed Internet Safety issues, bringing them up to date on what is going on with their grandchildren. Also, since grandparents are a great resource in bringing information back to the parents, we made up packets for them and for their children.
- 2) We continue to raise awareness about the concerns of the impact of technology on the safety of children – especially in regard to predators online, cyberbullying, and texting. We offered materials to our parishes and schools for their use regarding these matters. Examples from *Human Relations Media: When Telling Isn't Tattling, Think Before You Click, Sexting*.
- 3) We piloted a survey on Bullying which we developed just for our Diocese, using the services of a nationally known professional in this area who lives in our Diocese. The pilot was done during this audit year (May 2011) in one of our schools in two grades - 5 and 7. The goal is to launch it in all the schools during the upcoming school year in grades 4 through 12 and eventually in our parish religious education programs. We have also developed surveys for the parents and educators in our diocese which will be implemented this year as well.

Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- Instituted an online database system for parishes to capture data related to the Safe Environment Program. This database will allow individual parishes to store Safe Environment data as well as allow OCYP access to provide an additional tool to assist in the audit process. To date approximately 57 percent of parishes are on-line with the goal of reaching full participation. OCYP staff is providing technical assistance.
- The Information and Communication Technology Addendum became effective on July 1, 2011. The OCYP created and launched an online training curriculum for those individuals who had already taken the Safe Environment training to review this new document.
- The OCYP partnered with the Network of Victims Assistance (NOVA Bucks) to train all clergy, staff and volunteers regarding their responsibilities as mandated reporters as well as Archdiocesan policy. The trainings are being held at 45 different locations around the diocese. The trainings began June 27, 2011.

We are estimating that over 25,000 people will be trained by the end of the training program which is scheduled to end by early November.

- The Archdiocese of Philadelphia appointed a Delegate for Investigations. The delegate is responsible for the oversight and coordination of the investigation of an allegation of sexual abuse by a member of Archdiocesan clergy, employees or volunteers. The delegate is responsible for taking all reports, working with the review board and notifying civil authorities.

Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

In April of 2011, the Archeparchy participated in the National Abuse Prevention month. Our office prepared materials to be published in the parish bulletins, newsletters and the archieparchial newspaper "The Way" to raise awareness about abuse of children happening in the society and provide useful information on how to detect and report any reasonable suspicions of abuse to the child protective and law enforcement agencies.

We continued to work with pastors, school principals and coordinators of parish religious education classes on implementation of the new online training program for clergy, employees and volunteers, i.e. to explain how the online sessions work, materials and requirements.

Diocese of Phoenix, Arizona

- July 2010 – 24 Minute Safe Environment Training DVD implemented: *Preventing Children From Harming Children*

Preventing Children From Harming Children was produced by the Diocese of Phoenix with the assistance of Great Scott Productions. A Participant Guide was also developed that contains information as it relates to the message in the DVD to assist the facilitators when delivering the module. The content of the video includes:

- A) developmentally appropriate child sexuality
 - B) how often and possible reasons that children sexually abuse other children
 - C) Red Flags: Infrequent Sexual Behaviors Ages 2-12 / Problematic Play Ages 2-12
 - D) Sexting: statistics related to why teens say they do it, how often they engage in this behavior and introduction of AZ Sexting Law
 - E) a review of Arizona State mandatory reporting law
 - F) resources
- May 2011 – Partnered with Virtus to modify program titled *A Plan to Protect God's Children* for July, 2011 implementation of renewal video.
 - Mass for Healing and Reconciliation:
 - March 8, 2011 - St. Thomas the Apostle parish in Phoenix, AZ. Celebrated by Bishop Thomas Olmsted.
 - Community Outreach and Networking:
 - The Safe Environment Training Office and the Office of Child and Youth Protection attended roundtable meetings with the Greater Phoenix Child Abuse Prevention Council (GPCAPC). (gpcapc.org)
 - Hosted the GPCAPC Conference and Awards Luncheon. Keynote: Joyce Mills, Ph.D.

- Paul Pfaffenberger served on panel with local child advocates and a county attorney for “Let the Children Come” presentation on preparing churches to protect children. Hosted by Phoenix Children’s Hospital and presented by: Jeanette Harder, author.
 - Teresa Becker and Paul Pfaffenberger presented course titled “Preventing Children From Harming Children” to 40 participants in attendance at the GPCAPC.
 - Arranged for Patrick Goodman, Therapist – ChildHelp (childhelp.org) to present at a Principal’s Meeting. The topic was titled: Sexual Related Incidents: Student to Student.
 - Granted permission for Monica H. Breaux PhD, MSW to utilize the “sexting” portion of Preventing Children from Harming Children video at a Rally for Diocese of New Ulm Youth Council in Minnesota.
 - Attended conference presented by Dan Powers, LCSW at the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) Family Advocacy Center.
 - Attended Domestic “Sex Trafficking Awareness Training” offered by Catholic Charities – Dignity Program.
 - Paul Pfaffenberger, Director-Office of Child and Youth Protection was interviewed on The Bishop’s Hour radio. (thebishopshour.org – March 7, 2011.)
- Revised the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Minors.
 - Attended the 2011 National Safe Environment & Victim Assistance Coordinators Conference hosted by the Diocese of Burlington Vermont.
 - Attended Educator’s Day for Diocese of Phoenix. Topic was “The Law and Safe Schools” presented by Dr. Sarah Watson.
 - Attended Praesidium Webinar titled “Social Media & Sex Abuse”

Eparchy of Phoenix, Arizona

REVISION OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY:

During the course of this audit year, the Review Board Members of the Eparchy of Phoenix were challenged to revise our Safe Environment Policy. Important areas that were needed and thus included in the document include various Appendices, i.e.: Glossary to identify and clarify terms used throughout the body of the policy; Guidelines for Maintaining a Safe Environment for Minors during Eparchial and Parish Programs; Digital Communication Directives; Parish Annual Safe Environment Forms that must be completed and returned to the Safe Environment Office for the Eparchy.

CLERGY CONFERENCE:

On June 14, 2011, during the annual Clergy Conference, Jennifer King Mikitish presented an all day workshop on Safe Environment for the priests, deacons, seminarians and religious. Important areas included in her presentation and highlighted include:

- Sexual Abuse – Myths vs. Facts
- Watch - for physical, emotional, behavioral boundary violations and warning signs that a child may have been abused.
- Act – when you notice warning signs
- Teach – children to help protect themselves

Using the Called to Protect Videos, oral presentation and interactive responses from those present, she proceeded to share the best practices to keep our ministries and programs safe.

- Screening - Initial screening is done by our Eparchial Pastoral Center, using LexisNexis background checks, interviews, checking references, checking local, state and federal sex offender registries.
 - Interacting – Examples of appropriate and inappropriate interactions between adults and children were discussed.
 - Monitoring – Ways to keep activities public
 - Training – Providing tools needed to protect children, i.e., learning how to recognize sexual abuse, how molesters operate and emphasis was placed on continuous study of the Safe Environment policies to ensure knowledge of rules and expectations.
 - Responding – Emphasizing the necessity of taking action promptly of abuse, ways to respond and proper procedures for reporting.
- Deacon Michael Sullivan, Review Board Chair, and Sr. Jean Marie Cihota, Eparchial Safe Environment Coordinator reiterated to the clergy the necessity of further reading, reflecting upon and implementing the revised Eparchial Safe Environment Policy.

Diocese of Portland, Maine

1. Safe Environment Coordinator and Victim's Assistance Coordinator both attended the annual Coordinators Leadership Conference in Burlington, Vt. from May 1st – 6th, 2011
2. Completed additional training of 8 parishes in the use of Logos, Ministry Dashboard, VPIN Program. The training allows the parishes to control their own database of people and run reports to determine at any time where their people stand in the screening and training process for Safe Environment.
3. Completed the vetting process on a new ministry category, Eucharistic Ministers. All those in this role are now required to complete all the paperwork and go through the background check process. Great deal of time and expense was committed to this project, over 1,500 individuals cleared.
4. Added an additional 12 Facilitators for Protecting God's Children Training. This was done to give more availability for parishes to schedule training sessions in areas that we were weak in coverage and to replace retiring volunteers.
5. Attended Virtus Conference in Chicago from August 25th – 27th.
6. Participated in Bishop's Annual Mass of Prayer and Penance for Abuse Survivor's 4/5/2011

Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon

1. Cathy Shannon facilitated the *Called to Protect* training for parents at Cascade Heights Charter School on March 8, 2011. This school is not affiliated with the Archdiocese but they heard about our program and asked if we would present it to their parents.
2. The *2011 Pastoral Ministry Conference* for clergy, catholic school principals and all parish employees was held on March 30, 2011. Three hundred-fifty people were in attendance. The topic for the day was *Ethics in Pastoral Ministry*. The presenter, Fr. Raymond P. Carey, Ph.D. included in his presentation: the importance of ministers having right relationships with the people ministered to in parishes and schools, confidentiality, what being an ethical agent of the school, parish and the Archdiocese means and what

our restrictions are and what are our obligations. He covered many of the topics in the Archdiocesan Code of Conduct including the protection of children and reporting abuse.

3. On May 18, 2011 Cathy Shannon participated in a group evaluation meeting for the Portland Police child abuse and registering sex offenders division. This meeting was part of a grant process the division has received in working with sex offenders and public relations. This division has been extremely helpful to the Archdiocese in checking on sex offenders near schools and parishes, assisting with initial stages of investigation of abuse reports and training.
4. Cathy Shannon attended the annual Safe Environment Coordinators/ Victim Assistance Conference in Burlington, Vermont May 1-6, 2011.
5. The 2010 CARA Report was completed and submitted by Rhonda Kwei.
6. The Archdiocese revised the opt-out procedures for parishes and school. These new procedures will be implemented in September 2011.
7. The Archdiocese created a Policies and Best Practices for Using the Internet and Social Media document. This document is based on the guidelines from the USCCB and the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry. The document will be implemented in September 2011.

Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island

1. Translation of the Safe Environment program into Spanish
2. Workshop for the implementation of Circle of Grace children's safe environment training (1/2011)
3. Audit of entire school system for completion of background checks for all compensated employees and volunteers.
4. Present – On going meetings and revisions of the Diocesan Protection Policies and Procedures.
5. On going creation of a web based computerized database for all BCI's for employees and volunteers.

Diocese of Reno, Nevada

1. The Diocese has purchased the program "Protecting All Children" which has been used during this audit year to train people who have no affiliation with the Catholic Church.
2. The Diocese has also purchased two videos for use by schools and youth ministries: Bullying Prevention Program and Technology, Safety and Security. These have been requested by St. Albert the Great School and Bishop Manogue Catholic High School for preview. We did not request specific information about their use. The Superintendent of Schools (the former one) requested them for preview and we do not know how they were used while they had them.
3. The Diocese has provided a public service radio announcement: one five day period during Child Abuse Prevention month and one five day period in late summer as schools open.
4. The Diocese has provided bulletin announcements to the parishes for use during Child Abuse Awareness month. We have no record of how the parishes have used them.

Diocese of Rockford, Illinois

1. The Diocese of Rockford's requirement of criminal background checks on all its foreign priests and candidates for ordination includes background checks from the country of origin, as well as from all countries in which the individual has lived for six months or more, prior to coming to the Diocese. The Diocese of Rockford has used an Immigration attorney to implement this program. In essence, each candidate must obtain a police certificate from each country locale in which he has lived for 6 months or more which discloses all arrests, reasons and dispositions for which there is a record. Note that there is a listing for 44 countries from which police certificates are not available including many Central and South American countries such as Mexico.
2. In the Spring of 2007, the Illinois Legislature passed a law requiring fingerprint criminal background checks and Illinois Sex Offender Management Database checks of all school employees hired after July 1, 2007 who have regular daily contact with children as part of their job duties. Since July 1, 2007, the Diocese of Rockford has required fingerprint background checks and the Sexual Offender Management Database checks of all its school employees.
3. In January 2010, the Diocese of Rockford made a video presentation on How the Catholic Church has responded to the Abuse Scandal, and posted the video on you tube, for easy access by interested individuals. The link to the you tube video is found on the home page of the Diocese of Rockford web site.

Diocese of Sacramento, California

- Presented the "How to Teach VIRTUS" training for catechists and teachers in the Diocese at our annual Catechist's Ministry Day.
- Began monthly visits to parishes and schools to increase communication and aid locations that need assistance implementing safe environment programs.
- Served on the committee to develop the Diocesan Social Networking Policy.
- Presented a safe environment procedures training at the annual new principals meeting.
- Attended the Spring Cluster Meetings throughout the Diocese.
- Both Mary Hastings and Cathi Fisher participated in a number of on-air radio interviews with the Catholic radio station in the Diocese.
- Developed and distributed informational postcards to encourage communication between parents and children regarding safe environment.
- Developed a comprehensive packet of information and activities for Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- This included articles in the Catholic Herald magazine
- Bulletin announcements
- Informational postcards and
- Catholic radio interviews

- June 13, 2011 was named a Day of Penance for Sins and Crimes against Children and Youth with a special prayer for the needs of children at St. Maria Goretti parish.
- Published an article on the website and in the Catholic Herald regarding the Report on the Causes and Context of Clergy Sexual Abuse of Minors from the John Jay Study
- Bishop Soto approved two new programs for parishes and schools to teach children that meet the requirements of the Charter.

Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan

The Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of Saginaw contacted and met with the Regional Health Coordinator for the Saginaw Area Intermediate School District (ISD). They discussed how they could cooperate in their mutual efforts in keeping all children safe from harm. The Regional Health Coordinator was very enthusiastic about developing mutual efforts and this discussion led to contact with the other two ISD Regional Health Coordinators that cover the other counties in the Diocese of Saginaw. These Regional Health Coordinators were also very enthusiastic about working together for the protection of all of our children and youth. Ongoing mutual cooperation in keeping children safe is in process and will continue throughout the next school year.

Diocese of Salt Lake City, Utah

During this audit period, the office of safe environment has developed train-the-trainer training to facilitate the training of Spanish-speaking employees and volunteers who work with children can more easily be trained on safe environment issues. Here's how it works: the diocesan director of safe environment has developed a power point presentation that generally duplicates the on-line safe environment training. The director then works with a bi-lingual person at the parish level (who is usually the local director of safe environment or the parish director of religious education) to present the materials to Spanish-speaking parishioners. The diocesan director of safe environment attends the training session to answer questions or clarify any issues that arise during the training that the local trainer may not be able to address and also to administer and correct the test on-site to ensure that the materials presented have been correctly understood.

During this audit period, the office of safe environment has developed a tri-fold, bi-lingual handout on what teachers and catechists should do if a child discloses sexual abuse during safe environment training. These handouts will be distributed during the diocesan meeting of DREs in July and at the meeting of principals before the beginning of the school year 2011 -2012.

Diocese of San Angelo, Texas

1. Articles discussing the topic of sexual abuse were published in the Diocesan Newspaper, *The West Texas Angelus*, as well as periodic announcements in parish bulletins. The diocese has also supplied each parish with an acrylic display stand to be displayed at the back of each church. This display features a poster and brochures encouraging victims to come forward.

2. Contact information for the Victim Assistance Coordinator is published on the Diocesan Web Page and on the displays and brochures in the back of the churches.
3. During the audit period various parishes underwent a Diocesan Safe Environment Audit to ensure continued compliance with the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. This is an on-going continuation of the Diocesan Internal Safe Environment Audit process that was begun in Fall 2007. During this audit parishes were audited to insure compliance with Background Checks; Ethics Workshop Attendance; Safe Environment Training requirements for Parents, Children, and Youth; and display of Code of Conduct and Victim Assistance Materials. These parishes included one parish from the 2009 audit in which compliance concerns had surfaced. Although a couple parishes had a few compliance issues, measures were taken to correct deficiencies in those parishes and bring them into compliance with the requirements of the Charter.
4. Refresher training on the *Diocesan Policy on Ethics and Integrity in Ministry* was conducted for all of our international priests to help insure that they fully understand the policy and the forms of acceptable and unacceptable behavior in the American culture.

Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas

- A monthly television program (To Protect) is filmed interviewing various community agencies that work with abuse victims or on abuse prevention. The program runs on CTSA, the Archdiocesan television network. The goal of the program is to highlight the various locations within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of San Antonio that services can be obtained.
- A monthly newspaper article is printed in Today's Catholic, the archdiocesan newspaper. The article discusses parenting techniques and the problem of child abuse within the community.
- The Archdiocese of San Antonio worked with the Moye Retreat Center in developing and funding a weekend long retreat for survivors of abuse. The planning and development was conducted during this audit period but the actual event will be conducted in July 2011.
- Trainings were conducted for two secular agencies within the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The first training was on dating violence for the youth attending Poteet High School. The second training was for staff at a Head Start program in Boerne, TX. This training focused on how to identify and report abuse.

Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe requires that the Children and Youth safe environment classes be taught every year, in every grade level. I have met with Catechetical Leaders from many parishes throughout the Diocese to keep them updated with the resources available to them to teach the classes, and to keep them aware of how important the classes are taught every year in every grade level. (names and contact numbers can be provided upon request)

Compiled child safety information to be used as a hand out and given to parents if their child did not attend the class. The information is from Kindergarten – 6th grade and from 7th – 12th grade in two separate hand outs.

There were a total of 59 Abuse Awareness Trainings for Adults in this last audit period. 12 of the 59 were presented in Spanish. The presentations were conducted throughout the Archdiocese of Santa Fe to make it more convenient for the rural communities to attend.

Diocese of San Bernardino, California

1. Training for the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law.

Required for:

- All Clergy and Candidates for Ordination - Diocesan Safe Environment Policy
- All Diocesan Employees – Diocesan Safe Environment Policy
- All Catechists and Youth Ministry Volunteers– Department of Education, Office of Catechetical Ministries Policy

Recommended for:

- Any volunteer who may work with minors
- Parents and/or Guardians

A person may fulfill this requirement by attending a workshop or completing the online training course.

The training is available in English or Spanish at www.sbdioocese.org

2. Out of Harm's Way / Fuera Del Peligro

Optional, recommended training for parent and/or guardians.

This workshop is offered in English and Spanish. The material covers parenting skills for ages pre-school to high school. The training goes through vignettes and encourages participants to work in small group to discuss ways to implement the skills presented. A workbook with additional vignettes goes home with the participants. Participants are encouraged to continue the discussion and have open conversations with their children concerning good behaviors to keep them (the children) safe in various situations.

3. Train the Trainer Workshops for:

- Diocesan Policy for the Protection of Children and Young People and Code of Pastoral Conduct
- California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law

These workshops are offered at least once during each audit period. This audit period, one session was held in June, 2011. They are offered so that each parish and/or school will have presenters at the parish/school level for the Diocesan Policy required trainings. They are offered in both English and Spanish.

4. Restoring-Me Workshop

This bilingual program is offered ten times throughout the calendar year. It provides a safe and confidential setting where adult victims and/or survivors of abuse can share their experiences, look for solutions, and, if needed, make use of the referrals available to continue their healing process.

A group of trained volunteer facilitators work with personnel from the Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection to provide sessions. This past audit period Restoring-Me offered workshops in the following Vicariates:

- the Low Desert Vicariate
- the West End / San Bernardino Vicariates.

These sites allowed participants to take part in program activities close to home. Many of the people attend more than one session. Pastors have told us that this program has made a difference in the lives of several of their parishioners.

5. C.A.S.E. – Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation

The Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection is in collaboration with C.A.S.E., a coalition of Faith based organizations and San Bernardino County offices who offer direct services to youth. The focus is to help teens involved in prostitution. The coalition began in March 2009.

6. Children's Network for San Bernardino County

The Children's Network for San Bernardino County is the organization that provides materials and workshops in the county to prevent child abuse. The Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection has begun to work with this organization to provide materials for our parishes and schools

Archdiocese of San Francisco, California

- Conducted an annual art contest designed to allow children in different age ranges throughout the Archdiocese to demonstrate what they have learned about keeping themselves safe. This was the second year of the contest and clearly demonstrated that children, even pre-school children, can be taught boundaries and ways to assist in keeping themselves safe.
- Again used a four-page color advertisement in *Catholic San Francisco*, the Archdiocesan newspaper to describe the Safe Environment program of the Archdiocese and to print the results of our second annual art contest for children and young people. This advertisement was used to enfold the newspaper as a front and last page. The paper is sent to 90,000 house-holds. A copy can be provided.
- On a monthly basis, we deliver to every parish and school an item called "*Did You Know*" – these items are taken from the resources offered by the National Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection. Parishes and schools use them in teaching children, in placing items in parish bulletins, in newsletters, etc.
- With our associates at Law Room (Shield the Vulnerable) we developed a seamless, integrated system to manage Live Scan and Background Checking requests and results, and to provide on-line training. When a new adult logs in, they are taken through a registration process that determines whether we want them to have their background evaluated using Live Scan finger prints, or if a simple background check done by Electronic Screening Resources, Inc. (based on the demographic data provide about the individual) is sufficient. These background checks are ordered electronically immediately. In the case of Live Scan finger prints, the system produces a completed Live Scan form and provides the contact information for every Live Scan site in California. Finally, the system provides that individual the adult course, "Recognize, Report and Prevent Child Abuse" required by the Archdiocese. As these processes unfold, the system gathers the information to manage all those activities on the same website on which children and young people take their training. The system enables parishes and schools to manage their own data or to continue to have the Archdiocese manage it for them, but the data will reside in a common repository allowing quick, accurate reporting to the Archbishop and to the USCCB. Our data was migrated to this new system prior to the end of the 2011 audit period.
- To support this new information management system, we created a network of over 400 administrators including all pastors and principals and anyone the pastor or principal chose to give access to their data. (We recommended tight control based on a moderate level of confidentiality required for the viewable data – even though the truly sensitive data is only viewable by the Office of Child and Youth Protection, and personal data like Social Security Number is deeply encrypted.) We use this network of people to communicate new ideas about keeping children safe.
- Conducted an annual Archdiocese-wide meeting of other agencies (those of other religious denominations and secular agencies) who address the problem of Child Abuse. Twelve other agencies participated (an increase of 80% from last year). On-going communications networks were established or reinforced, as the case may be.

- Distributed three brochures created in-house describing our “Youth Education” programs, “Adult Compliance” programs, , and “Reporting Abuse” process. We also distributed brochures for each of the three programs used in educating young people (“Talking about Touching”, “Kid Safety”, and “Teen Safety”). This distribution went to every parish and school.
- Two staff members attended the Safe Environment Coordinators annual meeting in Burlington, Vermont in May of 2011.
- Our Victim Assistance Coordinator and a group of survivors initiated meetings of survivors living in the San Francisco Bay Area to discuss their concerns. These large group meetings began in September and ended in April. Archbishop Niederauer and Bishops Justice and McElroy met with the large group twice during this time. Presently a group of six (6) survivors from these meetings is continuing to meet with the bishops to “flesh out” proposals that the entire group put forth to the bishops.
- Initiated a more formalized process of evaluating the ministry of Parochial Vicars, in addition to the evaluations done for pastors. Since many parochial vicars are foreign-born, this is helping the Vicar for Clergy and Personnel Board have a more complete picture of the strengths and weaknesses of these men at an earlier time in their ministry in this Archdiocese.
- Within the past year, the Archbishop has appointed new Vicar for Filipinos and Vicar for Spanish-speaking, to replace the two priests in these positions who retired. The priest serving as Vicar for Spanish-speaking has been extremely effective in his ministry to this foreign-born group of priests and the people served in the Archdiocese, and is consulted regularly by the Vicar for Clergy in the evaluation of priests for ministry. He has developed a Pastoral Plan that shows great understanding of our growing needs to serve this community.
- Within the past year, the Vicar for Clergy has instituted a *Clear Speech Program* for priests from other countries, paid 1/3 by the priest, 1/3 by his parish, and 1/3 by an Archdiocesan ongoing formation budget. A qualified speech therapist evaluates candidates for the program, and meets with them individually over nine sessions to help priests with their communication skills, incorporating cultural awareness skills into the process.
- The Archdiocese works with Catholic Legal Immigration Network to aid priests needing R-1 visas (after application for I-129s) and I-485 permanent resident visas (after application for I-360s). The process has become increasingly involved, and within the past year new requirements have been added that the priest must undertake: he must provide a far greater number of documents from his home diocese: birth certificate, baptism certificate, school attendance and grade reports, accountability for all date gaps in resumes, biometric data, current physicians report regarding the health of foreign-born applicants, etc. Though this work is required by the U.S. Government, the Archdiocese has a dedicated part-time office worker who reports to the Vicar for Clergy and who interacts with our immigration attorneys and foreign-born priests to ensure that the immigration process is undertaken with careful Archdiocesan supervision and involvement. Foreign-born priests travel in and out of the Chancery for appointments with greater regularity now. Their interaction with the Vicar for Clergy and his staff continues to increase.

Diocese of Savannah, Georgia

1. Implemented the "expanded" *Teaching Touching Safety* safe environment program for children in the parish religious education programs.

2. Continuing Education:

- a. Director, Office of Child Protection attended national VIRTUS conference.
- b. Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator attended National Safe Environment Leadership conference.

- c. Director, Office of Child Protection & Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator attended a Seminar for Clergy on Sexual Abuse sponsored by the District Attorney's office.
- d. Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator attended a workshop on child molesters sponsored by the Coastal Children's Advocacy Center.
- e. The Office for the Protection of Children & Young People published information announcements focusing on safe environment topics to be shared between parent and child in every issue of the monthly diocesan Pastoral Bulletin.
- f. Continued upgrading the diocesan website of the Office for the Protection of Children & Young People to make it more informative and user friendly.
- g. Continued to promulgate the presence of this office's website at every opportunity via announcements at meetings, numerous emails to diocesan entities and individual queries, telephonic replies, office memorandums, and other written diocesan publications.
- h. Continued to address the importance of the safe environment programs and annual audit at both the Presbyteral Council meetings and the Diocesan Board of Vicars meetings.
- i. Coordinated with parishes to take part as a visible presence in parish ministry drives.

Archdiocese of Seattle, Washington

King County Elder Abuse Council – ongoing

- The Safe Environment Program Coordinator acts a representative of religious organizations on the council that works toward “the recognition, treatment, prevention, investigation and prosecution of abuse, neglect and exploitation of elders and vulnerable adults”.
- In June 2011, The Safe Environment Coordinator gave a presentation to King County Prosecutors Office, Department of Social & Health Services, local law enforcement and local fire/medic teams on Community Education & Resources for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

Safe Environment Legislative Efforts – ongoing

During the 2011 legislative session, the Archdiocese of Seattle continued to lead efforts on two pieces of legislation.

- Accessibility to criminal history screening results – This legislation addressed background check screening limitations and attempts to expand the reach of the criminal history report for an applicant with access to minors or vulnerable adults.
 - The Safe Environment Coordinator and Associate Director for Human Resources both testified in front of the House Human Services Committee.
- Child abuse prevention education in the public schools – This legislation focused on expanding the prevention education provided to public school children.
 - This legislation is still active but did not make it out of the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

Social Media Policies – ongoing

- The Archdiocese of Seattle developed Social Media Policies for use of social media by the Chancery (archdiocesan) offices & programs, which includes comprehensive information about online communication with minors and vulnerable adults.
- A class was also developed to train all personnel who have permission to use social media for Chancery business.
 - One section of the training is titled: “Safe Environment/Internet Safety (Preventing Opportunities).”

Washington State's Sixth Annual Vulnerable Adult Abuse Conference – October 2010

- “Overcoming Barriers” - Safe Environment Program Coordinator attended conference in order to integrate additional material about Vulnerable Adult Abuse into Safe Environment trainings.

Sponsored 9th Annual Interfaith Symposium for Safe and Responsible Ministry – January 2011

- “The Juvenile Sex Offender in Your Faith Community” - A hands-on community forum for understanding the unique considerations for safety and accountability of sex offenders in your faith community.
- Co-hosted with King County Sexual Assault Resource Center and the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration.

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center “Kids Are Our Business Breakfast”; Advocate Sponsor – March 2011

- Sponsored a table at the annual fundraising event.
- Archbishop Sartain attended and was publically recognized with other dignitaries.

Child Abuse Prevention Month – April 2011

- Resources and Materials sent to parishes, schools and programs of Archdiocese of Seattle. Packet included:
 - Bulletin Announcements to accompany the weekly readings
 - General Intercessions and Music Suggestions for Liturgies
 - Safe Environment Links
 - “12 Things the Bishops Have Learned From the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis” by Bishop Cupich, Chair of the Committee for the Protection of Children & Young People.
 - Creative ideas to promote & acknowledge Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- Blue child abuse awareness stickers were distributed by request.
- Archdiocesan offices held a “Blue Pinwheel Scavenger Hunt” around Chancery Campus to increase awareness of Child Abuse Prevention.
- Special “April Child Abuse Prevention Month” Banner was designed and posted on the home page of the Archdiocese of Seattle which linked back to the Safe Environment Program website and the Child Abuse Prevention Month Packet and additional resources for parents.
- Special editorial printed in the archdiocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Northwest Progress* regarding the situation in Philadelphia, the Safe Environment Program and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Volunteer Appreciation Month – April 2011

- Special thank you sent out to all trainers in honor of their dedication to the Safe Environment Program and their commitment to the protection of all God's children.
- Created a Word Cloud with the comments written on the *Called to Protect* evaluations during the first year of the program.
- Demonstrated how the program is perceived by its participants with words like “information”, “children”, “think”, “awareness”, “good”, “help”, “need” and “thanks.”

Elder Abuse Advocate Training – June 2011

- Safe Environment Coordinator completed a two-day training provided by:
 - US Department of Justice – Office on Violence Against Women
 - King County Prosecutor's Office
 - National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life
 - Senior Services

Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania

The Office of Child and Youth Protection conducts on-site audits of every church, school and youth-serving program of the diocese every year.

Diocese of Shreveport, Louisiana

- Through the Chancellor's office a Parish Quick Guide of topics has been produced and distributed to help parishes with many issues including a guide on safe environment. This is a synopsis our sex abuse policies as well as what is expected of those individuals who work, or volunteer in parishes.
- We have setup Local Safe Environment Coordinator in each location as of last year. We are still working through the rough spots but it has brought about more awareness to the locations the issue of Safe Environment and stronger compliance. The Local Safe Environment Coordinator processes all forms for required individuals as well as make sure the adults that are required are trained, children are trained and adults are background checked. A manual was created and distributed to all coordinators.

Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa

The most significant additional action taken by the Diocese of Sioux City during the recent audit period is the hiring of a safe environment coordinator whose sole purpose is dedicated to the important tasks associated with this office. In the past, the position of "Safe Environment Coordinator" had been assigned to the diocesan superintendent of schools, more-or-less as an adjunct to his official duties. This was always problematic, since much of the time, energy and effort required for the successful prosecution of safe environment activities was delegated by him to support staff, whose competency and commitment could not always be counted on, and whose lack of permanency made for uncertain results. Consequently, maintaining programs, evaluating policies, instituting new safeguards, etc., was at best a haphazard process. The recent hiring of the new safe environment coordinator has already demonstrated its worth in terms of the development of a much more systematic approach to the issues involved in the planning and coordination of this program. It is altogether to be believed that this single "action" has already created a more streamlined and effective process, which, in turn, is helping to create an atmosphere of greater trust and cooperation between the diocese and its parishes/schools/institutions regarding safe environment policies and practices. In the end, it will also provide an even greater degree of protection to our children and young people.

On June 2, 2011, the Diocese sponsored a "Clergy Day" in Milford, Iowa, for all active and retired priests and deacons. The topic for the day was "Cybersex: The Wrong Side of the Internet." The presenter was Father Roman Paur, O.S.B., a well-known lecturer on this subject and a priest-monk of St. John's Abbey in Minnesota. The three-hour long presentation addressed the following issues: what cybersex is, access and appeal, who is vulnerable, danger signs of usage, earmarks of addictive behavior, etc. Participants responded very favorably to the presentation and to the question/answer session that followed, virtually everyone better understood the dangers of internet pornography for priests and deacons and appreciated the need to be proactive and vigilant in establishing safeguards to it.

Diocese of Spokane, Washington

- Bishop Cupich wrote a personal letter of apology to every victim of P. O'D. a priest who abused multiple children in the Diocese of Spokane.
- Bishop Cupich met with victims M. L.G. (past victim)/M.R*. Oct. 7, 2010
- Bishop Cupich met with Sr. K. R. (past victim)
- Bishop Cupich met with S. B. (past victim)/M.R*.
- Bishop Cupich met with M. R. (*past victim and rep. of SNAP)
- Bishop Cupich met with W. S (past victim) / M.R*.
- Sacred Heart Parish, Spokane offers "Prayer for victim of abuse" weekly
- St. Patrick, Pasco occasionally included petitions for victims of abuse and their abusers at Sunday Mass. Various prayer groups lead the hours of prayer for successful mediation as well as for victims of abuse and the abusers in English and Spanish.
- Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral included prayers for victims of abuse during the weekly mediation prayers.
- St. Joseph, Dayton and St. Mark Waitsburg do an hour of prayer each week and one a month there is a day long adoration at Holy Rosary in Pomeroy that includes prayers for the victims.
- St. John Vianney, Spokane Valley included prayers for the abused often though not weekly.
- St. Joseph, Otis Orchards has an hour of adoration each Wednesday that includes prayers for the victims.
- Assumption parish, Spokane includes victims and their needs during Sunday Prayers of the Faithful (occasionally). Intermittently information is given in the Sunday parish bulletin re: contact info. re: Child abuse. Occasional use of Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary with special mention of needs of victims. Annual Mass intention to C. family on anniversary of son Tim's death (victim/suicide) along with ongoing attempts to stay connected to family. Special "passes" granted to parish School families (parent-survivor/victim) in regards to meeting parish expectations of those engaging in parish Catholic School ministry.
- St. Joseph, Newport added one hour of Eucharistic Adoration on all Fridays during the year for prayers for the victims of abuse.
- 3(plus) visits made by VAC to Saint Mary's Mission, Omak and Sacred Heart, Wellpinit (parishes within the Indian Reservations where abuse occurred both in the schools and churches) to meet with Pastors/SE coordinators/volunteers etc. to assure that everyone was trained and understood Virtus SE training and need and listen to questions/concerns.

Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Missouri

1. August 2010 the diocese began a new process of recordkeeping and background screening. We worked for over a year with Virtus and AmericanChecked, Inc to design a program to meet the needs of

the diocese. Instead of parishes and schools initiating and keeping their own records, all background screenings are now initiated, evaluated and kept by the diocese. An employee or volunteer registers online for the Virtus training and also submits background screening information in one step. The existing diocesan Virtus database now contains training and background screening information for each user. The diocese is now in the process of verifying that each employee and volunteer has taken the required training and had his/her background evaluated under the new system.

After the initial problems of introducing the new procedures, getting all the information necessary and paying for the re-screenings, things are going very smoothly. The parish and schools appreciate having less responsibility for recordkeeping, and verification of compliance is much easier for the diocese to obtain.

Diocese of St. Cloud, Minnesota

1. After receiving a credible allegation from a person against a deceased priest, two (2) listening sessions were held in April of 2011 at the parishes where the priest had been assigned as pastor. In following the recommendation of the Diocesan Review Board from June of 2010, to have an independent team member at listening sessions, the Diocesan Response Team was joined at each parish by a sexual assault advocate from *Someplace Safe* based out of Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

There were nine individuals present at both sessions, in addition to two pastors, the *Someplace Safe* advocate, and the Diocesan Response Team. Some of the individuals who attended the sessions expressed appreciation of the open and transparent process of engaging in listening sessions as allegations are made. Other individuals expressed initial disbelief about the accusation and asked to share their examples of the positive relationship they had with the accused priest.

Both advocates expressed appreciation for being invited to participate in the process. One advocate provided valuable feedback that, given the tone and conversation, it would have been very difficult for a potential victim of abuse to sit through the listening session. The advocate, however, did not have thoughts at this point on how the Diocesan Response Team could have facilitated it otherwise.

There have been no new allegations or concerns that have surfaced since the initiation of the listening sessions.

2. During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the Diocese of St. Cloud created two safe environment DVDs for children and youth. One copy of each DVD has been shared with each diocese and eparchy in the network of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The writing, filming and producing of these DVDs was initiated, produced and directed through the Communications Office of the Diocese of St. Cloud and Catholic Education Ministries of the Diocese of St. Cloud. Along with the DVD, a study guide was provided to explain the background behind the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, information for teachers and catechists and questions to help discuss the DVD with each audience. There has been a very favorable response to the DVDs both in our own diocese and other dioceses across the United States.

Trailers for these DVDs are found on the diocesan website. The diocesan website is also a resource for parishes to offer training for adults and a site where forms used in the safe environment program can be accessed.

Eparchy of St. George in Canton, Ohio

Comparison Study with other Dioceses:

Ongoing computer searches performed which reviewed the programs of other dioceses to compare information relating to child safety.

Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri

At the request of a parent in one of our preschool programs we have adapted our “Safe Touch” program, the program we use for safety training for children, to children at the preschool level. It is not mandated, and is made for optional parent presentation at home.

Archdiocese of St. Paul – Minneapolis, Minnesota

PARENT GUIDES

Archdiocese sends the publication *VIRTUS: Protecting God’s Children: A Guide for Parents, Guardians and Other Caring Adults* to all families new to Catholic schools and parish faith formation programs within the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese has been doing this since 2005-2006 when the *Guide* was sent to all parents and guardians of children in Catholic schools and parish faith formation programs within the Archdiocese. Parents have shared their appreciation for receiving this helpful guide.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT CURRICULUM ALIGNMENTS

In 2008, the Most Reverend John C. Nienstedt, Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and his Presbyteral Council approved the *Safe Environment Curriculum Alignments with Roman Catholic Theological & Catechetical Guidelines*. We have found the alignments to be instrumental in helping our leaders, teachers and catechists understand how to integrate the safety messages into their religious education instruction.

This year we revised the “Principles for Child Protection Catechesis” found in the introduction to the alignments. Beyond refining the ten principles, we added endnotes referencing scripture and church documents. We strongly suggest parish and school staffs, and their parents and volunteers use the “Principles” in prayer and in training sessions as part of their personal conversion process.

Each of the curriculum choices at every level of understanding now has been aligned directly to: *Archdiocesan Religion Standards* and their benchmarks (2005); *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1994/1997); and *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age* (USCCB, 2008). References are also made to: *National Directory for Catechesis* (USCCB, 2005); *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* (2006); and *Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living: Guidelines for Curriculum Design and Publication* (USCCB, 2008).

COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Curriculum and Leadership Liaison staff person is in regular contact with:

- Senior Agent Donald Cheung, Minnesota Department of Public Safety, BCA
- Karina Berzins, Minnesota Department of Public Safety, ICAC, Training and Education Coordinator
- Laurie Nathan, Lead Outreach Coordinator and Michelle Menillo, Educational Writer for NetSmartz Workshop, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

- Amy Kenzie, Program Coordinator, Sexual Violence Prevention Program Injury and Violence Prevention Unit, Minnesota Department of Health
Curriculum and Leadership Liaison staff person is a member of the National Council for the NetSmartz Workshop.

PCYI office provides VIRTUS training for the Maronite parishes located within the geographic boundaries of the Archdiocese.

The Archbishop's delegate for Safe Environment and the archdiocesan Director of Advocacy work with other members of the Minnesota Council of Churches and the Minnesota Religious Council toward the goal of ending sexual misconduct in the religious community.

ECUMENICAL COOPERATION

Since 2006, several parishes within the Archdiocese have offered VIRTUS training to members of Lutheran, Methodist and other congregations which participate in joint Vacation Bible School and other youth programs with Catholic parishes.

During present audit cycle, Curriculum and Leadership Liaison participated in Spiritual Communities Action Team, an ecumenical group organized through the Minnesota Department of Health to promote sexual violence prevention within faith communities statewide.

EMPLOYEE SCREENING AND TRAINING

Criminal background checks and Safe Environment training are required for all diocesan, parish and Catholic school employees regardless of whether they have regular or unsupervised contact with minors.

PCYI TRAINING SESSION

Representatives from parishes and schools which faced challenges in meeting *Charter* requirements during the 2010-2011 audit year are required to attend a training session in September, 2011. This session will provide information about children's curriculum, adult safe environment training, background checks, audit reporting procedures and other topics.

Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida

1. In May 2011, Bishop Lynch issued a 5-year update to his 2006 letter, reaffirming his commitment and that of the Diocese of St. Petersburg to protecting the vulnerable members of our society. In addition, the 2011 letter provided information on how cases involving accusations of clergy and lay employees were handled. The letter was published in the bulletins of all diocesan parishes and was included on our diocesan website, in his blog, "For His Friends," and in both local newspapers.
2. Following the April 2011 audit conference in Atlanta, our Safe Environment Program coordinator arranged to be interviewed by personnel from our diocesan radio station, WBVM 90.5 FM. The purpose of the interview was to inform listeners within our diocesan boundaries and beyond of the steps that are taken to ensure a safe environment for all children and youth.
3. While the *Charter* does not explicitly require a 5-year update in Safe Environment Program training and background screening, our diocese does in fact require this of all clergy, lay employees, volunteers, contractors and vendors, who will have the care, responsibility and/or supervision of minors. Several live large-group training sessions were conducted for re-certification in our Safe Environment Program.

Dozens of other individuals were recertified online, through the www.shieldthevulnerable.org website, enabling them to take the training sessions at a convenient time.

4. Clergy and laity who have been trained in other dioceses or religious institutes are also required to undergo a live Safe Environment training, using our program, in order to avoid confusion over terminologies and to more readily assure the consistency in training of our employees, volunteers, contractors and vendors.
5. Fingerprinting and background screenings are made accessible, as our diocese possesses the use of several electronic fingerprinting units, which are located at several parishes and schools throughout the diocese. The locations of these units change periodically, to enable more persons to be easily screened or re-screened, as the case might be. One machine is also part of a “mobile unit,” which travels to various sites, according to the needs of the parish, school or other entity.
6. Our diocesan Human Resources Office has addressed a letter to all pastors, school principals and other directors of diocesan entities, reminding them of the required 5-year renewal of employee and volunteer screening.
7. The diocesan Safe Environment Office webpage is regularly updated with helpful information and articles.
8. Individual and small-group Safe Environment Program training sessions are offered for any clergy member, employee, volunteer, contractor or vendor, as needed. Several such offerings have been made available to priests relocating to the Diocese of St. Petersburg and to retired priests unable to travel long distances.
9. News concerning Safe Environment Training is made known through various means including our diocesan “Priests-Only Website,” group e-mails, and phone calls or mailings through the U.S. Postal Service to those with no internet access.
10. Our diocesan Victim Assistance Minister is willing to travel to various parts of the diocese in order to meet with those who have issued complaints of clergy sexual abuse dating from their childhood. The majority of complaints involve priests of other dioceses or religious institutes outside the Diocese of St. Petersburg. After the April audit conference, a plan was put into place to distribute posters/flyers to all parishes concerning our responsibility as a Church to act in accordance with the norms of the USCCB *Charter*.
11. The diocesan Review Board has reviewed and updated the most recent series of Practical Standards of Professional Responsibility for Priests serving in the Diocese of St. Petersburg. The last update was made in 2004. This update will be published once final approval is given by Bishop Lynch or his delegate.
12. Communication has been made to priests suspended from active ministry due to child abuse allegations, encouraging the priests to pursue laicization. The special faculties given to the Congregation for Clergy will be employed for those who refuse to petition for laicization on their own.
13. A special Safe Environment Program Awareness Program DVD for International Priests was purchased from *Virtus* and was used for two International Priests’ gatherings. The DVD details subjects such as relating to women in ministry, understanding appropriate physical boundaries and other cultural aspects which will prove helpful to them in their ministry in our diocese.
14. A series of priests’ overnight sessions was initiated by Bishop Lynch in order to better hear and address the concerns of priests according to age groups, diocesan and religious order priests, and international priests.

Diocese of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Posters and Flyers pertaining to Child Protection were distributed to all Catholic Churches, Schools and Agencies, in the US Virgin Islands. They were placed in strategic places for all to see. The people appreciated the information.

Virtus Trainings were held throughout the Diocese during the period under review. People were trained and were grateful for the information and the knowledge they gained. They became aware of child protection enlightened by the information.

Bishop Bevard is reviewing the "Code of Conduct and Procedures Concerning the Protection of Minors" with the Vicar General. The draft document is near completion.

St. Thomas Syro Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago, Illinois

Considering that this diocese is only 10 years old it has taken great effort to inform its clergy, CCD teachers, parents and student of the religious education classes the importance and awareness of the Safe Environment regulations created to protect the young entrusted to them. At all meetings of the clergy as well as of the people, classes on regulations for Safe Environment are given. Also the person in charge of the Safe Environment programs, at the diocesan level, meets with the staff of the parishes regularly and holds classes on Safe Environment for the students, parents and teachers of these parishes/missions.

It can be reported that the various steps that were taken to implement the regulations of the Safe Environment are working properly.

Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle Chaldean Catholic Diocese, Michigan

Our diocese continues to adhere to the guidelines of the Dallas Charter. We do not however exceed what is mandated and have not provided anything extra toward the advancement of the Charter. We only provide background checks, adult and children trainings, code of conduct, and educational brochures for parents. We have a Safety Environment Office at the chancery and a Safety Environment Coordinator and Victim Assistance Advocate. The bishop of the Diocese sends out a yearly document entitled "Bishop's Message" to be put out to all the parishes. His statement describes his commitment to the Charter and encourages people who have been abused by clergy to come forth. He also indicates the diocese's commitment to provide healing. (Copy of bishop's message will be provided upon request)

Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio

Each year the diocese sponsors four workshops regarding child protection. In addition to its main focus, which is the review of the Diocesan **Decree for Child Protection**, continuing education is provided at this opportune time. In this current audit period the topic which was addressed was the internet and child and young adult safety.

Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin

Change in Definition of Who Requires a Background Check and Training

The action with the greatest impact is the change in who/when an adult needs to be background checked. In the early years of the Charter when all dioceses were scrambling to develop policy, program, and procedure, we were pressed by the parishes to come up with a standard of when an adult needed to be background checked – to define “regular, on-going contact with minors.” The arbitrary choice was less than five contacts with minors during an audit year. When it became obvious that the number of contacts with minors was not being tracked well and that this definition was becoming a loophole, we deleted that definition.

In the 2010-11 audit year, the Diocese of Superior changed its guidelines to all adults with contact with minors on behalf of the church must be background checked and trained. This had a very large impact on our schools, necessitating multiple training sessions be set up for parent volunteers. Counting both renewals and new screenings, more than 700 background checks were completed in September and October. We are very pleased with the results of the first year and recognize that some fine tuning is needed in some parishes as we go forward.

Safe Environment Coordinator Visiting Parishes

The success of a Safe Environment Program is greatly dependent on the relationship between the diocese and the parishes. Recognizing this important factor, the Safe Environment Coordinator is spending more time visiting the parishes, consulting with parish staff about the Charter, facilitating Basic Adult Safe Environment (BASE) training sessions while at the parish, and generally becoming known on a more personal level. This personal touch has made a difference especially in situations where there is new parish staff needing to understand the program and where there has been some resistance to the Charter.

Orientation of New Priests

The orientation process for new priests is changing. While they still are asked to participate in larger group meetings, new priests spend time one-on-one with the Vicar for Clergy, the Director of Diocesan Consultation and Leadership Development, and the Safe Environment Coordinator. The new priest is provided with a copy of the Safe Environment Resource Binder and is walked through the binder page-by-page with full explanations of how the Charter is implemented in the diocese.

Diocese of Syracuse, New York

The Diocese of Syracuse hired an individual, Joseph O'Donnell, to be a Compliance Supervisor of those priests who were removed from ministry as a result of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. This position is critical in ensuring that the individuals comply with their decrees and that they are doing what they need to do to live a healthy lifestyle. We highly recommend a position like this for all dioceses.

Diocese of Tucson, Arizona

An educational video was produced and disseminated to educate parishioners regarding elder abuse. The video was well received and complements others produced in previous years on child abuse. These videos are widely used in the parishes and schools for educating employees and volunteers. They also

are posted on a training website to promote ease of access. A second video was produced to be distributed in the next audit year.

A monthly article on the Safe Environment Program is published (in both English and Spanish) in the diocesan paper, which is disseminated to all parishes and is posted on the website of the Diocese. There have also been frequent comments regarding the Safe Environment Program in the Bishop's Monday Memo. In April 2011, Child Abuse Prevention Month, Bishop Kicanas also wrote a column on the Safe Environment Program, published in English and Spanish.

The Diocese welcomed two priests from Chile in response to a request from the Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection. The two priests were seeking information on best practices in maintaining a safe environment for children in parishes and schools. Arrangements were made for intensive briefings at the pastoral center and visits to three parishes.

The Diocese responded to a request input regarding the safe environment program from Abbot General Michael Kelly, OSB, who is the general superior of the Sylvestrine Congregation of Benedictines in seven countries.

In addition to the volunteers listed in Chart C/D, the parishes undertook the safe environment education of education of 3020 volunteers that do not have independent access to or influence over minors or vulnerable adults by virtue of their ministry or service.

The parishes and schools also provided education to 12,928 parents. Many parishes and schools disseminated written material through bulletins or the diocesan newspaper to educate parents and other adults about maintaining a safe environment for children in the home and about what the parish/school was doing to maintain a safe environment for the children when the children were in the care of the parish/school. Since it is not possible to estimate accurately the number of adults who actually read this material, the number is not included in the figure of parents educated; nevertheless, the efforts are noted and reinforced in the feedback each parish/school receives.

Our office disseminated 400 sets of training materials in conjunction with May 25th National Missing Children's Day. These materials were to be used by schools and parishes for education of parents and other adults.

The Diocese has continued to be of support to the Southern Arizona Children's Advocacy Center and has reached out to Adult Protective Services. The Diocese works closely with the Pima County Attorney's Office on all issues related to detection of potential problems in the parishes and schools.

Diocese of Tulsa, Oklahoma

The Diocese of Tulsa in conjunction with our background check provider has implemented an electronic file cabinet which allows for authorized person(s) at each Catholic entity including parishes to access and verify the status of an individual. The document will show if the person has a clear background check, received safe environment training, has the required references on file and has signed a code of conduct. This electronic file cabinet called Smart-Trak allows for expeditious verification for those who work/volunteer with numerous organizations within the diocese.

Diocese of Tyler, Texas

The Diocese of Tyler actively promotes the Maria Goretti Network, www.mgoretti.org, a lay Catholic organization open to all victims of abuse. It is a peer support group. Information on this group is distributed thru the diocese and included in training sessions. This provides positive out reach to abuse victims, even if abused by someone other than the Church.

The Diocese actively promotes prayer for those affected by abuse thru the intercession of St. Maria Goretti, patroness of abused children. There is a prayer for the victims themselves, for praying for all those affected by abuse, and a version for young children. Encouraging prayer for healing has been well received in the diocese.

Diocese of Venice, Florida

1. During April, two Masses are held for all victims of abuse.
2. The Diocese sends bulletin announcements to parishes regarding abuse awareness on a regular basis.
3. Diocesan program for training children has been upgraded to VIRTUS (for 2011 – beyond).
4. Spot checks are done on records of catechists and Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound during parish religious education audits (20 parishes a year).
5. As part of the parish religious education program audit, spot checks are made to ensure that catechists and Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound have been fingerprinted and safe environment trained. (The Director of Catechesis is also the Director of Safe Environment Awareness, Training and Certification.)
6. All parishes/schools received copies of HRM's Human Relations Media Program on bullying.

Archdiocese of Washington D.C.

During the past year the eight member Child Protection Advisory Board of the Archdiocese of Washington has focused on an extensive review of the Archdiocese's Child Protection Policy. The goal of the review is to make the Policy clearer, more user-friendly, and reflect the most current best practices. Recommendations for revisions will be made to the Archbishop this fall with publication to follow. The Policy has been in place since 1986 and has been updated in 1993, 1999, 2003, and 2007. The Archdiocese of Washington (ADW) was notified of an allegation involving a member of a religious order who had worked at 5 locations over a period of 30 years in ADW. Although the allegation did not involve any conduct while working in ADW, pastors at all 5 locations were immediately notified. In addition when the information was shared at all masses the following weekend, teams of ADW staff were available on site at all 5 locations to answer questions and receive information.

Diocese of Wichita, Kansas

- 1) As part of the ongoing effort of the Catholic Diocese of Wichita to form pastors and parish leaders to stay vigilant in protecting our youth, a matrix was developed during this previous audit year. (Please see the form below). It is hoped that this one-page reference sheet will create a uniform understanding among all of our parishes, our Catholic schools, our religious education programs concerning training

and ongoing formation for all parish ministers and leaders in creating a safe environment for our children.

- 2) The Statement of Suitability necessary for all priests, deacons and religious who plan to exercise pastoral ministry and are coming into the diocese from another place outside the Diocese of Wichita also promotes a safe environment. The policy was instituted in the Diocese of Wichita on November 1, 2009 and continues to this day.
- 3) Every month, the clergy of the diocese receive in the Clergy NewsNotes a Safe Environment teaching taken from a variety of resources. This article is also posted each month on the clergy resource page of the website of the Diocese of Wichita, (www.CatholicDioceseOfWichita.org).

Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware

The Catholic Diocese of Wilmington maintains a web site – www.cdow.org – which contains information in English and Spanish regarding our Safe Environment Program, *For the Sake of God's Children* as well as information regarding *If you have been Sexually Exploited or Abused*. The website is maintained/updated appropriately.

Sr. Suzanne Donovan, who is responsible for the implementation of our For the Sake of God's Children Program, is an active member of *Prevent Child Abuse Delaware - Stewards for Children*, a prevention training program that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The program is designed for organizations that serve youth and for individuals concerned about the safety of children. It is the only nationally distributed, evidence-based program proven to increase knowledge, improve attitudes, and change child protective behaviors.

The Catholic Diocese of Wilmington participated in the John Jay College Survey Causes and Context Survey in August of 2010.

The Diocese of Wilmington participated in the *2010 CARA Annual Survey* of Allegations and Costs (January 2011).

The Dialog, our diocesan newspaper, published information regarding contacting the Victim Assistance Coordinator, policies to protect children, and how to report abuse on the following dates: July 22, 2010, September 23, 2010, November 25, 2010, February 3, 2011, and April 14, 2011.

The Diocese of Wilmington has established a *Compliance Oversight Committee* whose responsibility it is to monitor all implementation activities. The Committee will annually:

- Audit all religious education personnel

- Audit all school personnel

- Audit all coaches/assistant coaches and boy scout leaders where the troop is parish based

The group requested that the internal audit from the Diocesan Finance Office add a series of questions to the formal audit done in parishes/schools. It was reported that all the parishes audited in the past year were in full compliance with standards, background checks, and training. Additionally, the committee receives the reports that are generated by schools, parish religious education programs, and athletic association presidents on the training that has occurred.

Each year the principals, directors of religious education, and youth minister and athletic association presidents are required to submit **a report of all educational activities** that occurred in a given year stating the date, attendees, and topics covered.

The Office for Religious Education and Catholic Schools Office have integrated **a review of the degree implementation of the Curriculum in their visitation processes.**

The Diocese of Wilmington, because of the many lawsuits brought against it for childhood sexual abuse as a result of the Delaware State General Assembly's passage of the Child Victim Act, declared bankruptcy in 2009. The purpose of the bankruptcy was clearly stated by our Bishop at the time we filed. Given the number of suits filed against the Diocese and the finite resources of the Diocese, bankruptcy provided the fairest possible treatment of all survivors to be compensated for the crimes committed against them. In addition to meeting the moral obligation to make reparation and hopefully to contribute to the healing of survivors of abuse by catholic priests, there is also moral obligation to continue the charitable, educational, parochial, spiritual, and evangelical work of the Church. Most of this work is done in the parishes and one of our primary objectives in bankruptcy was for the Diocese to take full responsibility for the crimes committed by its priests and to preserve the parishes in their ability to continue providing the usual ministries of the Church.

Exiting the bankruptcy hinged primarily on the settlement of all lawsuits for childhood sexual abuse. Settlement with the survivors of childhood sexual abuse by catholic priests was reached in February of 2011. It took until July of this year for the Court to approve our Second Amended Plan of Reorganization and emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Not only was there a monetary agreement but also there were non-monetary agreements, and among them the following should be noted:

- For a period of not less than 10 years the Diocese will maintain on its website the list of all diocesan priests regarding whom there are admitted, corroborated, or otherwise substantiated allegations of childhood sexual abuse.
- For a period of 1 year the Diocese will reserve space in its newspaper, *The Dialog*, for survivors of clerical sexual abuse to tell their stories.
- The Diocese will adopt a policy requiring that sexual abuse claimants be referred to as "survivors of clergy sexual abuse," not as "alleged" victims, claimants, or survivors.
- Annually the Bishop and all Ecclesiastical Officers and Department Heads of the Diocese will certify that they have no undisclosed knowledge of sexual abuse of minors occurring after the bankruptcy, or if they have such knowledge it shall be reported to law enforcement. Every 5 years as part of their compliance with current requirements of For the Sake of God's Children Programs, all priests in active diocesan ministry will make a similar certification.
- A plaque will be affixed adjacent to the doorway of the principal's office in every diocesan and parochial school stating that abuse of children and young people will not be tolerated.
- As part of the education and training seminarians currently receive regarding the prevention of child abuse, seminarians will meet annually with survivor advocates.
- The Bishop will issue a public statement of gratitude to survivors of abuse who had the courage to speak out about their abuse.
- The Diocese will retain an expert in the field of child protection, mutually acceptable to the Diocese and the Creditors Committee, to evaluate and make public recommendations regarding "For the Sake of God's Children." This evaluation will be public and will be repeated by the consultant every five years. The consultant will also be involved in planning the initial meeting of seminarians with survivor advocates and the selection of a professional facilitator for such meetings.

Diocese of Worcester, Massachusetts

Our diocese produces a monthly cable TV/streaming internet program called “A Conversation with Bishop McManus.” In June 2011 it focused on highlighting the issue in general of child protection as well as reviewing the Causes and Contexts Report. The cable stations have a total potential reach of over 365,000 households not including potential internet viewers. The archived video remains on the internet on our website for 7/24 availability.

Following the Causes and Contexts study, the Chairperson of our Diocesan Review Committee, a licensed independent clinical social worker, published an op-ed about the Church’s response in May in the leading secular paper in Central Massachusetts, the *Telegram & Gazette*. That article was also provided as a reprint to parishes for their bulletins.

The New England Victims Assistance Coordinators and other staff from their dioceses are hosted at the Worcester Chancery regularly throughout the year to share current information and discuss ongoing response issues in relation to the Charter.

Although our Religious Education programs supplement programs taught in public schools, each year, Safe Environment training for parents is offered through the Religious Education programs. During this audit period, 3,132 parents completed the program.

Diocese of Yakima, Washington

Due to budget cuts two years ago, the Diocese was forced to cease publication of its quarterly news magazine, the Central Washington Catholic. We were able to start up a monthly newsletter in May of 2011, and used the first issue to prominently feature an article, in English and Spanish, titled “Making Use of Teachable Moments,” by Elizabeth Heidt Kozisek, of the Diocese of Grand Island, NE. The publication is distributed to over 12,000 parishioners in our 42 parishes. We will continue to use the publication to highlight safe environment information.

Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio

1. The diocese hired an attorney, who is also counsel to a children’s services board, to review our clergy and victim case files in which allegations of child abuse had been made in order to ensure that the diocese is doing everything possible to protect children.
2. Promoted Child Abuse Prevention Month by sending materials in March to all pastors, associate pastors, parish ministers and parish offices for their use in April. Materials included: memorandum about the promotion; bulletin/pulpit announcements; and two USCCB documents: Ten Points for Protecting Children and Messages Children Need to Hear. An article was written for the diocesan newspaper. The Office of Religious Education created a form for parish ministers to complete as to how the diocesan policy is being used and asking for suggestions. The materials were appreciated. (materials enclosed)
3. The Chancellor/Safe Environment Coordinator spoke at a meeting of new principals about our Child Protection Policy and compliance issues, explaining procedures for signing an acknowledgement of the policy, fingerprinting and in-service training. The questions which followed generated good discussion.

4. The Chancellor/Safe Environment Coordinator/Victim Assistance Coordinator participated in the annual SEC/VAC Conference held this year in Burlington, Vermont.
5. The monthly diocesan newsletter, *Communique*, contains child protection policy information, reminders, list of in-service dates/locations and compliance reminders each month. This information is listed in the Chancery section and also the Office of Religious Education section for training sessions. The newsletter is emailed to all priests and parishes and is posted on the diocesan website. Calls to this office show that the information is being received and used at parishes and schools.
6. Each month, the diocesan paper, The Catholic Exponent, publishes a notice about reporting abuse. (enclosed)
7. Several times each year (and when requested) a status report is sent to parishes and schools which lists the names of all employees and volunteers and where they stand on compliance issues. Parishes and schools appreciate this so they can update and/or delete persons. Some parishes and schools request a status report regularly. (sample enclosed)
8. The Priestly Life and Ministry Committee of the Presbyteral Council is in the process of planning a seminar for clergy in November on the topic of sexuality.
9. A new brochure, "Reporting Child Abuse in the Diocese of Youngstown and the State of Ohio," has been drafted and will be finished during the next audit period. It will be sent to all parishes and posted on the diocesan website.