

2012 Additional Actions Compilation

Diocese of Albany, New York

The Albany diocese has developed recommended best practices for all parish pastoral care volunteers who minister to the elderly and infirm in their homes or in institutions. Pastoral care volunteers include ministers of communion who serve parishioners in nursing homes, hospitals; and those who make home visits to the ill and infirm. The best practices make recommendations regarding background screening, and training for these volunteers in the area of elder abuse and reporting protocols if such abuse is suspected. Here is the link to the Diocesan pastoral Care Office web site that provides these resources:

http://www.rcda.org/Offices/pastoral_care/index.html the link to view the information is Pastoral Care Coordinators Tools and Resources.

Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania

The Diocese of Allentown's Office of Education purchased i-Safe, an anti-bullying program that includes access to a training website, for all schools.

The schools in Northampton County attended a program hosted by the County Intermediate Unit entitled, "Preventing and Reporting Child Abuse: Legal Requirements for Non-public Schools." Sr. Meg Cole, S.S.J., the Diocese's Safe Environment Coordinator, wrote three articles for the VIRTUS Protecting God's Children Program website entitled, "Breaking the Silence: Go Tell", "Parental Technical Support" and "Be Not Afraid".

In October 2011, Bishop Barres met with the Superior Generals of all the female religious congregations serving in the Diocese of Allentown to discuss their safe environment policies and reporting requirements.

In April 2012, Sr. Meg Cole, S.S.J., the Diocese's Safe Environment Coordinator, and Kelly Bruce, the Diocese's Charter Compliance Officer, attended a Victim's Assistance and Safe Environment Coordinators meeting hosted by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference.

In May 2012, Rev. Msgr. Alfred A. Schlert, Vicar General, Rev. Msgr. David L. James, Director of Vocations, Sr. Meg Cole, S.S.J., Safe Environment Coordinator and Matt Kerr, Secretary for External Affairs attended the "Walking into the Light, Realities of the Internet" conference at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, MD.

In June 2012, the Council of Priests approved a "Children in Rectories" policy prohibiting minors in rectories unless accompanied by an adult other than a priest or seminarian. If one-on-one pastoral care of a minor should be necessary, the schedule of times and locations should create accountability, such as in a parish office when other adult personnel are on duty and another adult should be informed that the meeting will be taking place.

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 34 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 2,486 people have attended these Masses since their inception.

During this audit period, the Masses were held at:

Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Annandale on October 4, 2011.

St. John the Beloved Catholic Church, McLean, on February 21, 2012.

All Saints Catholic Church, Manassas (Bilingual Mass) on June 18, 2012.

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 23 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 370 people have attended the Prayer Services since their inception.

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

Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, Alexandria on October 1, 2011.

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, Fairfax on November 5, 2011.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Front Royal on April 28, 2012.

The Diocese of Arlington considers the Masses and Prayer Services as an outreach to victims/survivors as the Mass and Prayer Service as well as the reception that follows are often our first contact with a new victim/survivor. The contact may happen at the reception or through a telephone call during the weeks following the Mass or Prayer Service.

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 November 29, 2011; March 27, 2012, April 19, 2012 and May 14, 2012. We held an additional Support Group Meeting this year in April. Eighty three people attended the Support Group Meetings this past year. A total of 413 people, both victims/survivors and support persons, have attended the various programs at Dominican Retreat since their inception in 2005.

RETREAT FOR VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

On September 10, 2011, the Diocese of Arlington held its third spiritual retreat for victims/survivors of sexual abuse and support persons. The retreat was held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Vienna, and it lasted from 9:00 until 3:00. Rev. William Dougherty, O.S.F.S. was the Retreat Master. He spoke on "The Spirituality of the Human Condition". 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. Over the past three years, 64 people have attended the retreats. Response to the Retreats from our victims/survivors has been very positive. At the request of our Victim/Survivor Planning Group, we have added this service to our yearly outreach to victims/survivors as it has been so well received and continues to be requested.

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 five 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:

November 21, 2011

January 30, 2012 (in conjunction with Review Board)

May 21, 2012

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 twice to discuss the possibility of having a Healing Garden in the Diocese of Arlington. Thus far, this project has not been approved. The Survivor's Planning Group initially requested that we offer a yearly retreat to our victims/survivors.

As mentioned above, we have had yearly retreats for the past three years including the last audit year.

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 85 persons. There were 53 victims/survivors of abuse, 16 family members or support persons, and an additional 16 requested assistance that was not directly related to sexual abuse.

This includes 6 new reports of victims/survivors abused as children by clergy as well as 6 family member receiving outreach and victim assistance.

Two victims/survivors of adult abuse by clergy were provided outreach and victim assistance by the Diocese of Arlington this past year.

COMMUNICATION

The Victim Assistance Coordinators sent color copies of the schedule to all pastors for posting at 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 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.

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/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

In addition to our Safe Environment training some locations also offer the following training for staff and parents:

Darkness 2 light training

Fred the Fox

Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The OCYP completed on-Site source documentation audits of every church, school and program working with children in the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

The OCYP disseminated resources for Child Abuse Prevention Month to every church, school and program in the Diocese.

EAPPS Database enrichment courses for appointed child protection site coordinators. These classes were given to improve their data entry sequencing and database maintenance skills. (The EAPPS database stores all profiles of individuals working with children in the Diocese of Baton Rouge).

Online renewal training product review and selection completed.

Diocese of Belleville, Illinois

The Diocese of Belleville has continued to require annual refresher training for all Employee/Volunteers who have substantial contact with children. This topic for 2011-2012 was Recognizing Child Abuse and we utilized a web-based training through Proud to Protect. The course is also available in printed form for those who do not have access to a computer.

The Office of Child Protection completed 2 reviews of parishes and/or schools during this audit period. The process has helped 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 Birmingham, Alabama

Red flag listing. Targets lay employees for rehire and also volunteers that were terminated in Birmingham Diocese for work related or abuse incidents.

Diocese of Bismarck, ND

Currently in the process of revising the diocesan web site including the sections on safe environment and victim assistance to make it more user friendly. We hope to have the new web site completed and operating in September of 2012.

The monthly diocesan newspaper, *the Dakota Catholic Action*, which is mailed to the homes of all registered parishioners in the Diocese of Bismarck, included these protection of children related articles over the past year:

September 2011 issue *Know the facts and prevent the risks*

October 2011 issue *Questions parents need to ask when selecting a program for their child*

November 2011 issue *Act on suspicions*

January 2012 issue *Children and cell phones*

February 2012 issue *Help children use social networking sites safely*

March 2012 issue *What you need to know about sex offenders*

April 2012 issue *Ten ways to help prevent child abuse,*
 2nd article on Preventing Child Abuse

June 2012 issue *How to recognize grooming behaviors*

In March of 2012, provided all parishes with child abuse prevention bulletin announcements for use in their weekly parish bulletins.

Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut

During Child Abuse Prevention Month 2012, the Diocese of Bridgeport distributed pamphlets and articles to schools and parishes through our diocesan website and Bridge communication.

A Healing Workshop for victims of abuse, *Disregarding the Shame and Reaching Out of the Joy*, is available as a resource and was developed by Father Larry Carew who is a priest of the Diocese of Bridgeport and is based on the retreats model that was offered in the past. The workshop is facilitated by trained counselors. The Victim Assistance Coordinator audited the workshop during this review period and is able to offer a description of the workshop to victims who may have interest in attending. The Victim Assistance Coordinators developed a model for forming a Survivor Support Group facilitated by the Victim Assistance Coordinators in the Diocese of Bridgeport during this review period.

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 submit in writing verification that a criminal background check was conducted and any employee who has been convicted of a crime against children or a sex crime may not work or volunteer on Diocesan premises in any capacity. Several companies have been assisted by our Human Resource Department with developing a background check process during the current audit review period.

The Diocese of Bridgeport Sexual Misconduct Policy and reporting procedures have been translated into Braille for use by members of the Diocese of Bridgeport who are blind.

Diocese of Brooklyn, New York

The Safe Environment Office assisted in distributing material from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to all parishes and schools. The material was the Net Smartz On line Safety Program.

The Diocesan Code of Conduct was revised to include proper internet and electronic boundaries. It was decided that individuals need to be aware of the vulnerability of children who are now using social media more than ever. All entities were asked to submit new forms.

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.

Diocese of Brownsville, Texas

On the Diocesan web site the following announcement appeared the week of 6/18/12: “This Week on Diocese Insight This week on Diocese Insight, a half-hour program on KMBH-TV, host Brenda Nettles Riojas interviews Walter Lukaszek about Protecting God’s Children. This week’s program also includes a Youth Works segment by Monica Benitez. The show will broadcast on Sunday, June 24 at 11 a.m. and on Friday, June 30 at 5:30 p.m.”

During this interview on KMBH-TV Walter Lukaszek, Victim Assistance Coordinator and Safe Environment Coordinator, focused on the 10th anniversary for the Charter to Protect God’s children and youth and discussing our safety net—
using the “Touching Safety” program by Virtus for Kindergarden through 12th grade;
offering “Protecting God’s children” information by using the DVDs, to the parents in each parish who have children in the First Communion and Confirmation sacramental program;
continuing to offer “Protecting God’s children” and “Keeping the Promise Alive,” both Virtus products, with volunteers and paid staff.

The Diocesan newspaper, “The Valley Catholic” ran articles in both Spanish and English—outlining the above, our 10th anniversary, and what we are doing to protect our children from child sexual abuse. See the attached copy of the newspaper for June, 2012.

In both we had the opportunity to share our commitment to dealing with child sexual abuse and openly offering healing should a report be made. Information on how to report was done in both mediums.

Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, New Jersey

In its efforts to better serve the safe environment commitment of the local Church of Passaic, the Office for a Safe Environment in Ministry has continued in its efforts to develop a program that can more effectively serve the Church and its young people. During the course of this audit period the following has been initiated to this end.

1. Development of a poster for use within the parishes that will heighten awareness of the importance of the safe environment program and offer points of contact that are available to respond to questions or concerns related to the program or possible allegations of abuse.
2. Ongoing development of a procedural guide for the eparchy that outlines various responsibilities and procedures to guide all involved in the most appropriate response to accusations of abuse by members of the clergy.

3. The eparchy continues to annually recertify all volunteers that serve children and young people in the various religious education and youth programs.

4. During the annual “Clergy Week” all priests participate in an in-service program that reinforces the various aspects of the eparchial safe environment program and presents an ongoing update with regard to its efforts. This program, through open dialogue, gives the priests in attendance an opportunity to reinforce and clarify their knowledge related to issues of safe environment and especially the eparchies program.

Diocese of Camden, New Jersey

The Office of Child and Youth Protection during this audit year began onsite parish reviews to go along with annual parish audits. All parishes submit to a paper audit each year, but this year 15 parishes were selected at random for on-site reviews. The Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection was accompanied by a parish Safe Environment coordinator from a different parish to meet with the parish Safe Environment Coordinator and Parish Catechetical Leader. The parish review consisted of going over with the parish Safe Environment Coordinator the requirements and policy of the diocese. The goal of the on-site review was to ensure that there was safe environment compliance as to each adult in regular contact with minors, and to reiterate the requirements and policies of the Diocese regarding the protection of children. Parishes found not in compliance were given a deadline by which to comply. Adults serving in a position with regular exposure to minors lacking proper documentation were removed from contact with minors.

The toll-free diocesan number to report sex abuse is prominently displayed on the diocesan website and has been frequently posted in the diocesan newspaper, both in advertising space as well as in news accounts about the treatment of sex abuse in the Catholic Church. Notices about the sex abuse hotline are displayed in parishes, in both English and Spanish. In a new action this audit year, the poster has been distributed in Korean and Vietnamese. Diocesan policy mandates that the notice be placed four times a year in all parish bulletins.

Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina

During the 2011-12 audit year the Diocese of Charlotte purchased a software program to better track compliance for employees and volunteers. The 32,000 background check records on file with the diocese were entered into the system initially, and the safe environment training and other compliance records will be added by diocesan staff. The software will enable every diocesan location to instantly check the records for the entire diocese to determine the status of new employees and volunteers in regard to safe environment requirements. We believe that this system will enable our locations to more quickly and efficiently resolve compliance issues. During the next audit year diocesan personnel will be trained to use the system at a series of workshops across the diocese.

Archdiocese of Chicago, Illinois

April Campaign – 04/2012

The Archdiocese of Chicago participated in raising awareness during National Child Abuse Prevention Month, which is April, by providing parishes and schools resources from the USCCB, as well as from the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth. Posted on the main Archdiocesan webpage, OPCY website

Pinwheel Garden Prayer Service – 03/30/2012

Pinwheel Garden Planting at Cardinal Quigley and Cardinal Meyer Centers

Children Matter Network

The Office of Children and Youth created a website that contains helpful hints and resources for parents and guardians. During this audit period, the website was updated and refreshed with new material.

Communication

Camera-ready bulletin ads for parish bulletins, parents' newsletters or parish/school websites.

Relevant Radio

Thomas Tharayil, Assistance Ministry, and Mayra Flores, Safe Environment Office, participated in the Archdiocesan radio program on 4/26/2012 to discuss efforts from the Office for the Protection of Children & Youth, and to promote the April Campaign and Healing Garden.

Assistance Ministry

With the Healing Garden Committee, the Assistance Ministry Office coordinated an Evening of Remembrance Prayer Service – 11/02/2011

Healing, Learning & Growing Newsletter

Resource Development

Veterans Administration – 7/28/2011

Shiela H. and Kathy D – Catholic Charities 8/11/2011

Debbie Major – Catholic Charities Loss Program 9/9/2011

Robert Heinke – Catholic Charities 10/7/2011

Rev. Dave Kelly – Peace Circles 11/21/2011

Amy Zajachowski – Canter for Integration and Healing 02/03/2012

Dr. Robert Orsi, Catholic Theology Professor (how victims-survivors may use religion to assist with healing process) 05/24/2012

Outreach through newspaper articles

Healing Garden Story – *Gazette Chicago* 09/02/2011

“Donna’s” Story – *Keenager* 11/20/2011

Healing Opportunities (Family Groups Workshop) – *Catholic New World* 12/31/2011

Archdiocese Office of Assistance Ministry (Survivors Groups) – *Catholic New World* 01/01/2012

Highlights of 2011 (June – Dedication of Healing Garden) - *Catholic New World* 01/01/2012

Pinwheels for abuse prevention – *Catholic New World* 04/08/2012

Visit local spots of interest (Healing Garden) – *Catholic New World* 06/3-16/2012

Charter is framework for making abuse response part of culture – *Catholic New World* 06/17-30/2012

Compliance Maintenance Update

Safe Environment Training For Children and Young People memorandum to principals, administrators and Directors/Coordinators of Religious Education identify acceptable safe environment training programs for children and young people, and explaining the annual requirement of offering the training.

Updated OPCY website to include clearer description of individual offices and compliance requirements.

Inclusion of the Archdiocese Code of Conduct and the Department of Children and Family Services' CANTS [Child Abuse & Neglect Tracking System] Form on online criminal background check applications.

Requirement of annual CANTS Forms to re-check applicants' possible retention in the Central Registry of the Department of Children and Family Services.

Vicariate Service Representative – New position. OPCY staff person who is available on a pre-designated day each month for one-on-one consultation with Site Administrators at the local Vicariate Offices.

Collaboration with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children to provide free resources to Archdiocesan parishes and schools on resources from NetSmartz – Online Safe Environment Training.

Ongoing Onsite Parish & School Audits

Internet Safety Training

Shawnte Jenkins- Presentation at Saint Christina Parish on internet safety- June 25, 2012.

OPCY Staff Presentations & External Consultations

Meeting with Amy Peterson, Claretian Community Victim Assistance – 09/22/2011

Catechetical Leadership – 01/25/2012

Presentation to new managers of the Archdiocese of Chicago as part of the Management Training Program – 2/15/2012

Presentation to 2nd year Seminarians – 03/06/2012

Met with Judith Speckman and Ted Welch from Joliet Diocese – 03/14/2012

Met with Susan Rosenback, new Victim Assistance Coordination from Archdiocese of Milwaukee – 03/16/2012

Presentation to students in Canon Law II class at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois – 5/15/2012

New Pastors' Workshop –

Mandated Reporter Training – The Archdiocese of Chicago provides opportunities for employees and volunteers who work with children to be trained in ANCRA (Illinois law) and reporting to the Department of Children and Family Services' hotline.

Live – limited training available in English, Spanish & Polish

Online – using DCFS online training

Ongoing Outreach to Community

Thomas Tharayil, Assistance Ministry - Presentation and meeting with African American Mental Health Professionals – 7/8/2011

Thomas Tharayil, Assistance Ministry – Presentation and Dialogue with Millennium Counseling

Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio

In response to one of the USCCB on-site audit recommendations, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati began to implement the VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children® Training Program during June 2012. All clerics, employees, and regular volunteers in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will now be required to be trained / re-trained using the VIRTUS® Program and to keep current in reading all continuing education VIRTUS® monthly Bulletins. VIRTUS® Facilitator Training began on June 18-19, 2012. VIRTUS® Child Awareness Sessions are currently going on throughout the Archdiocese.

Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio

Review Board of the Diocese of Cleveland: The Diocesan Review Board (DRB) engaged in several particular efforts to enhance the functioning of the Board.

One area of focus was to develop a protocol and plan for the orientation of new members, including the following three pieces for the orientation process: 1 - A booklet to be provided to new members upon appointment; 2 - A set of procedures to be followed by the Education Committee of the Board; and 3 - A plan identifying particular background materials and training activities that will educate and orient new members of the Review Board. Copies of these are provided in an "Annual Audit, Supplemental Materials" binder, at the Diocese, in the Office for the Protection of Children & Youth (OPCY).

In addition to these materials, the Education Committee of the DRB established a monthly meeting time for informal sessions that constitute guided discussions of matters on which new members sometimes share confusion or can express fresh opinions.

Next, as a result of revisions to the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* in 2011, the Chair of the Review Board undertook a comparison of the pre- and post-2011 *Charter* and another member analyzed the changes. One aspect of the changes in the *Charter* provoked

serious questions about the age of minors imaged in child pornography that must be proven in particular allegations. The DRB Chair authored and submitted to the Promoter of Justice the reason for the questions, which the Promoter of Justice submitted with his own particular questions to the staff of the USCCB for an explanation. An explanation was received from the USCCB for the benefit of the Review Board. Again, copies on file in Diocesan OPCY.

Next, a speaker with a national reputation, Dr. Paul Ashton of Boston, spoke to and met with the Review Board during the audit year. Dr. Ashton is experienced in the treatment and monitoring of clergy whose misconduct of minors has been established. He addressed several issues confronted by review boards and their members. The visit was enlightening and important to the education of newer members of the Board.

Additionally, over the course of the audit year, the DRB has used the *Causes and Context Study* by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice chapter-by-chapter for discussions at regular monthly meetings. By reading a chapter prior to the meeting & engaging in discussion the Board members receive a deeper understanding of the implications of this unprecedented body of work.

Another significant effort that the DRB has made is to electronically collect a body of materials and put it on a flash drive for each of its members. These include not only basic documents such as the Norms, Charter, diocesan Policy and review board bylaws, but also the printed versions of presentations given at a conference of bishops hosted by the Gregorian University in Rome last winter; background material on the developing awareness over the past 75 years of the occurrence and effect of sexual abuse of children; National Audit reports and recommendations; the National Review Board's ten-year report; and a number of other secular and Church-related articles on the sexual abuse of minors in the Catholic Church and other large institutions.

Seminary: It should be noted that Saint Mary Seminary together with Borromeo Seminary implements many aspects of safe environment training throughout their formation activities, including but not limited to the following. The President-Rector of the seminary is himself a VIRTUS Facilitator and well-versed in the implications of sexual abuse and its prevention. Additional courses include: 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. We have this seminary "Formation Activities report" in the Supplemental Materials binder at the OPCY.

Community Efforts: The Director of the OPCY has been making presentations throughout the community on Boundaries. These are vital to the awareness efforts as much abuse begins with boundary violations. These presentations are given at several Catholic high schools and other agencies upon request. The information is well-received and enhances our efforts to keep kids safe.

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. 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 can include students in K-8th grade, junior high students, parents, parishioners and faculties. 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).

Diocese of Colorado Springs, Colorado

In August, 2011, we underwent a voluntary audit of our Bishop Charter implementation processes by CHAN Healthcare Auditors.

We develop and distribute Update Training for our Volunteers and Employees who work with children and young people.

We hold two meetings per year of our Parish Safe Environment Coordinators (PSECs) for the purpose of further education, sharing of best practices, and mutual support.

In September, 2011, we distributed a Parish Safe Environment Coordinator's Manual that contains all of the information that a PSEC needs in order to effectively implement the Charter. It is updated as needed.

We conduct live internal parish and school reviews of the implementation of the Bishops' Charter and meet with PSECs individually to orient them and to assist them in their work.

Ed Gaffney and Terri Sortor attend the National SEC / VAC conference when our budget allows. At the request of the Parish SECs, we developed and distributed lesson plans to use with the Keeping Kids Safe training material.

In April we provide all of the parishes and schools with information for their bulletins and bulletin boards about child safety.

Visited other dioceses to offer assistance on various topics and offer their services if requested from another Diocese

Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

PGC Outreach: Our Safe Environment Consultant facilitates Protecting God's Children (PGC) sessions for individuals and/or groups who do not belong to a Diocesan or parish location but are interested in learning what steps the Diocese is taking to prevent sexual abuse of children. She facilitated 3 such sessions during this reporting period:

09/06/11: Center of Science and Industry (COSI) "COSI on Wheels" team members

11/06/11: Fisher College of Business Honorary, Ohio State University

03/27/12: Future teachers of America, Ohio Dominican University

Additionally, on 07/18/12, our Safe Environment Consultant was conducting facilitator training.

A Dominican sister from Africa was interning in our Diocesan Office of Social Concerns. She sat in on the facilitator training to learn more about how our program works. She is planning the information back to her native country after completing her studies at Ohio Dominican University.

Publicity: For Child Abuse Prevention month, our Diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Times*, ran a series of articles focusing on the Safe Environment program in the Diocese of Columbus.

(04/22/2012)

Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas

New Clergy Mentor Program – An educational forum for new priests to describe to them current issues and examples that church personnel have faced and best practices provided through recommendations. Topics discussed included: The response pornography addictions within families of your parish; when a parishioner exceeds boundaries in wanting a close relationship with his/her pastor; the giving and receiving of gifts; Provision of Charter guidelines and referral to the USCCB Website to familiarize themselves with the language and focus of The Office for Child and Youth Protection; a description and introduction of the staff and function of The Office for Child and Youth Protection; Juvenile Sex Offenders; Penn State Scandal: A Review; Registered Sex Offenders within your parish.

6th Annual National Scleroderma Walk- A family event that allowed for the dissemination of parent education materials in booth setting.

CASA “Every child needs a hero but it takes a Superhero to Protect a Child” event. Dissemination of OCYP materials and promotional items of the office.

Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota

This past year the Diocese has developed a Bullying Policy to be used in all our Schools. The Policy will include reporting and investigation forms as well as the procedures for handling Bullying issues, as well as recommendations for the training of staff and students.

Diocese of Dallas, Texas

Meeting of Parish Safe Environment Directors and Youth Ministers

On October 11, 2011, we hosted a conference for Youth Ministers and Parish Safe Environment Directors (Safety Officers). Dr. Monica Applewhite presented the program entitled, “Toward a Deeper Understanding of Sexual Abuse in Organizations.” The program was very informative and consisted of small video clips, a PowerPoint Presentation, and case studies. The information was valuable and the relationship built between the safe environment directors and the youth ministers helped to create a collaborate atmosphere in the parishes.

Meeting of New Parish Safe Environment Directors

In November, new parish safe environment directors met at the Pastoral Center. We discussed the training program, how to efficiently operate our database and any questions they had. We covered our safe environment program as well as the Sexual Abuse Policy.

Parish/School Safety Directors’ Meetings

There are approximately 80 safety officers in our diocese, who meet twice a year for a meeting with a speaker.

In April, Kimberlee D. Norris, JD, co-founder and Director of MinistrySafe and Abuse Prevention Systems, presented a one-day program entitled, “Skillful Screening and Procedures.” This program stressed methods of interviews and red flags during the screening process. This meeting was well attended and very informative.

In June, Cluster Meetings were held in four areas of our diocese. Cluster meetings provide safety officers an opportunity to share ideas in a smaller forum, to ask questions and attain a better understanding of all our programs.

Database

Our database has been a tremendous help in organizing information and allowing safety officers to track safe environment data on clergy, employees and volunteers who work with children or 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 officer 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 officers 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. The database notifies individuals a month before their training expires and 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 the safety directors enabling them to stay in compliance.

Diocese of Davenport, Iowa

The Diocese of Davenport was cleared from bankruptcy.

We continue to have a procedure for Registered Sex Offenders for all of our schools, faith formation programs and parishes.

We continue to require in our schools, faith formation programs and parishes of the diocese completion of the five year recertification of Protecting God's Children training. This includes all our employees and volunteers who work with children. It includes internet use, texting, etc.

Two from our staff went to Omaha in August to the National Safe Environment training which included our VAC and Safe Environment Coordinator.

During November Clergy Days priests had speaker Michael Ferjac speak on internet safety and pornographic materials.

We continue to use the USCCB's policy for technology and the NFCYM's.

Online training continues to be the main source of training for all our employees and volunteers in our diocese. This is used for new staff and the 5 year renewal process.

Background checks are being done on volunteers working with vulnerable adults.

Policies Relating to Sexuality and Personal Behavior are being revised.

The Safe Environment Coordinator is working with the Archdiocese of Omaha to incorporate pornographic materials on our diocesan website for parents as a resource.

Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa

The Diocese has implemented a quarterly audit report required from all parishes, schools and other diocesan entities. This process has become increasingly more effective in addressing any background or training requirements which may not have been met.

All Virtus training for employees and volunteers is now available online. Although live training sessions remain an option, the vast majority of employees and volunteers have chosen the online program. This availability has eliminated most of the issues previously associated with ready access to a live training session in a location and on a date which employees/volunteers could attend prior to beginning service.

Diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania

During this audit year, our diocese has in serviced 1,160 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 diocesan web home page with easy access to the diocesan Child Protection page. With the flyer copy-ready, parishes and schools were especially willing to distribute it.

In January, 2012, monthly bulletin announcements were once again 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. Parishes are more willing to use these announcements since they are posted on our web site and can simply be cut and pasted into parish bulletins.

We completed the process of designing and implementing the on-line version of our adult in-service program, which was posted on our diocesan website in November, 2011. This inservice consists of a narrated Power Point presentation and includes our diocesan training DVD, *Creating a Safe Environment*, in its entirety. Participants are able to print a certificate to present as proof of inservicing. This inservice can be accessed at <http://www.eriercd.org/protectyouth.htm> and the password is online11. Even with the creation of this inservice, face-to-face training of adult volunteers and employees is the preferred method of training adults. The online inservice was created to aid parishes and schools to inservice those adults who are unable to attend a site based inservice, or who begin employment or volunteer

service mid-year. This online inservice has been of particular value to the sports programs in our schools for coaches and assistants and also to our small rural parishes.

Upon request, our diocesan office offered materials and assistance to the team at Penn State University which recently developed and instituted training programs for employees in light of the child abuse scandal within that institution. A person on that committee had at one time been an employee at one of our large parishes and did extensive work overseeing and organizing charter documentation in that parish. He wrote, *“I just wanted to thank you again for your generous assistance earlier this year in providing resources and materials from the Diocese for use by Penn State as we developed our own child abuse prevention programs. ...the Diocesan materials were very helpful in clarifying some issues and approaches, as well as what you have shared with me in the past about the greatest struggles in effectively changing perspectives and behaviors. It’s because of your willingness to work with me previously at xxxxxxxx parish with our protection efforts there that I’ve been able to contribute to the University committee and team.”* Our office was pleased to be of assistance in this effort at Penn State.

Our diocesan university, Gannon University, has spearheaded the formation of a Child Abuse Task Force. This Task Force consists of members from many community organizations, including our local hospitals, the Achievement Center, Bethesda Children’s Home, the Bradley H. Foulk Children’s Advocacy Center of Erie County, Crime Victim Center, Diocese of Erie Office for the Protection of Children, the Erie Community Foundation, Erie County Care Management, the Erie County District Attorney’s Office, the Erie County Office of Children & Youth, Early Connections, the Erie School District, Safe Harbor Behavioral Health and SafeNet. The hope is to approach the issue from both a prevention and prosecution angle and accomplish more as a group than the separate agencies could do individually. Mrs. Karen Streett, the diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator, is a member of this Task Force and will be working closely with the training subcommittee.

Diocese of Evansville, Indiana

During the month of April 2012 (Prevent Child Abuse Month), the Diocese 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 the diocesan newspaper, THE MESSAGE, and also some of the parish bulletins.

Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska

The Bishop traveled thousands of miles in the Diocese to conduct the following healing services which consisted of traditional Alaska Native talking circles:

Kotzebue-7/23/11

Copper Valley-8/7/11

Hooper Bay-10/10-12/11

Nightmute-10/13-14/11

Tununak-10/15-16/11

Toksook Bay-11/2-4/11

Bishop Kettler attended the Copper Valley School Reunion on August 7, 2011 and the Alaska Federation of Natives Conference, praying for survivors of abuse on October 19, 2011, the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Diocese held this August contained prayers for the survivors in both Masses and print media.

The Alaska Shepherd newsletter sent out a solicitation to 50,930 households requesting donations for counseling expenses for survivors.

The Diocese maintains a burlap book of prayer intentions offered by urban parishioners for their brothers and sisters who were abused in rural villages. This book travels with the Bishop when he attends healing services and was present at the 50th Anniversary Celebration this August.

Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts

In November of 2011, Debora Jones of the Office for Child Protection (OCP) attended the annual Office of Faith Formation Ministry Convention for the Diocese of Fall River. At that event, copies of the *Abuse Prevention Policies and Procedures* books were given to all who needed copies for training purposes. Additional materials available were training manuals, DVDs used for training, Internet safety books, and other resource materials. The feedback that day was anecdotal and positive that the resources were at the conference and easily accessible. Attendance at the event also offered the opportunity for DREs and teachers to ask questions about a variety of child safety issues.

On March 4, 2012, Debora Jones was asked to conduct a training class at one of the largest parishes in the diocese. It was her third year of speaking to the confirmation class at the parish about the topics of bullying and suicide. The topic, while serious, is always met with positive feedback and next year's session has already been booked.

On March 7, 2012, Debora Jones presented a training session for all of the school principals in the diocese regarding child protection policies and the specific topics of handling situations where minors are a threat either to themselves or others. Principals were given folders with a number of resources, including referral sources and written protocols, for future reference. The feedback at the training and later was positive, especially in light of written protocols to which administrators could refer. Since the training, there have been situations in which principals had to handle students who posed threats and the principals quoted from the materials distributed in this training.

On May 15, 2012, Debora Jones provided a training session for the Franciscans in New Bedford. Typically, priests do not request training from the OCP, but this group requested current information on child protection issues. The training was provided at their site, for their convenience, and was met with interest, good questions, and an overall positive attitude. The brothers expressed surprise and enlightenment at the training topics.

On June 5, 2012, Debora Jones presented a training session to the staff of CSS on the topic of technology and Internet safety. The topic was researched as thoroughly as possible and packets full of useful information for parents and professionals were given to each attendee. This

information has since been included in the weekly Abuse Prevention Training sessions that Ms. Jones conducts. Trainees are very surprised by the hidden dangers that exist for children, and those who are parents leave the training with a renewed commitment to monitor children's Internet access and technology use.

Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana

Assessment of learning for children

All children in grades three and six in Catholic schools and parish religious education programs completed an assessment of learning. 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 of the training in particular needed strengthening.

Panelist for seminar

The diocesan SEC participated as a panelist for a seminar in the 2011 Oaklawn Professional Series. The seminar, *Preparing Faith Communities to Protect Children & Youth*, was presented by Jeanette Harder, Ph.D on Oct. 20, 2011 in Goshen, IN. After Dr. Harder's presentation, the panel of five, answered questions from the participants for ninety minutes. All participants came from Protestant faith traditions. During the panel, the SEC shared the diocesan safe environment website address and resources on it. Following the presentation several participants contacted the SEC with questions and requests for resources.

Diocese of Fresno, California

Eight months prior to the beginning of this audit cycle we endured the loss of our beloved Bishop, the late John T. Steinbock who died in December of 2010. Our Vicar General, Monsignor Myron J. Cotta became the diocesan administrator for the next fourteen months until the appointment of our new Bishop, the Most Reverend Armando X. Ochoa in February 2012.

During this time of transition, every department was asked to maintain their current level of responsibilities and programming and not make any policy changes or make any substantial changes in their departments until receiving direction and approval of the new Bishop. Therefore, the only additional actions during this timeframe were preparatory only. For example, the redesign and organization of our website which will include more information and resources to sustain and promote the protection of children and young people.

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 United Way, Youth Day of Caring. This is a day focused on Youth Volunteerism in a Safe Environment.

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.

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 100 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.

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.

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 2011 tree was “White as Snow”...based on the right relationship concept of forgiveness and scripture verse from Isaiah 1:18. Themed decorations and handouts discussed this right relationship concept and provided the link to the diocese of Grand Island 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...” and “Uniquely and Specially Created...” were on display at Parishes in Hemmingford, Sidney, Sutherland, Arnold, and Spalding Academy. 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. 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. The evidence-based gatekeeper program QPR for Suicide Prevention was utilized as part of the continuing education for volunteers and staff. QPR sessions were scheduled in over 30 parishes and catholic schools. Over 500 adult staff and volunteers were trained as gatekeepers to recognize signs of suicide / self-harm and intervene to refer youth for help. Response procedure sheets detailing response to suicide / self harm and response to peer to peer abuse were distributed to staff and volunteers.

Interchurch Ministries Bullying Workshop – Representatives of the Diocesan Child Protection Office attended a daylong workshop sponsored by Interchurch Ministries focused on faith-based organizations responses to bullying.

National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect – Diocese of Grand Island Child Protection Office staff participated in the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect via live-streaming online.

“Bullying Interventions: What Works” - Diocese of Grand Island Child Protection Office staff participated in the Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention Webinar, “Bullying Interventions: What Works.

Proclamation Signing – Suicide Prevention Awareness Week - Diocese of Grand Island Child Protection Office staff presented progress of the “Creating an Environment Safe from Self Harm” project at the Nebraska Suicide Prevention Awareness Week Proclamation Signing event.

Child Abuse Prevention Month – Children, youth, and adult staff / volunteers participated in the “Pray for 100 Project” for Child Abuse Prevention Month this year. In 2012, the Diocese of Grand Island celebrated its 100th Anniversary. In our diocese there are over 9,000 children, youth, and adult leaders. Each year approximately 900,000 children are abused. Children, youth, and adult staff / volunteers were asked to make the commitment to pray for 100 children during the month of April so that all 900,000 children would be remembered in prayer. Children and youth participated in a “prayer rock” project to serve as a reminder of this commitment to pray for 100 children. The concept behind project and the efforts of the Church to prevent abuse were discussed in an interview for the Morning Show on Spirit Catholic Radio.

“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 fall of 2011 and summer of 2012. SECs were provided with updated information regarding initial training, background screening, documentation, response to allegations, and reporting. SECs provided with information on how to schedule QPR sessions for their 2011 / 2012 continuing education topic “Creating an Environment Safe from Self Harm.”

“Right Relationships for Kids” – A program entitled “Right Relationships for Kids” was presented to middle and high school youth at St. Ann’s in Lexington; and St. Boniface in Callaway..

“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 “Creating an Environment Safe from Self Harm”

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).

Charter 10th Anniversary Prayer Services / Healing Mass

Bishop Dendinger led a prayer service remembering victims of abuse on June 27, 2012 at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Father Jim Golka celebrated a healing Mass with a focus on healing from abuse at St. Patrick’s Parish in North Platte, Nebraska on June 28, 2012.

Father Lou Nollette led a special Stations of the Cross at Holy Spirit Parish Alliance, Nebraska on June 29, 2012. The prayer service recognized the suffering of children and offered prayers for those who have experienced abuse.

Diocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Catholic Witness Newspaper – Both articles and Ad boxes were used to call attention to Youth Protection efforts and ways to protect minors and report suspected abuse. Articles included: 9/9/11 – “Adults in Youth Serving Ministries Required to Wear Diocesan Issued Badges.”

1/20/12 – “Diocese Found to Be in Full Compliance with Charter”

eDigest items - Internal Electronic News letter

In April 2012 we distributed to all individuals and entities on our internal email system information promoting, “April is Child Abuse Prevention Month”. This included a series of 4 bulletin announcements on how to prevent abuse.

Secular Media The local media was very interred in the topic of sexual abuse after the Sandusky / PSU story broke. We used the interest to share information about our experiences and efforts.

November 10 and 11, 2011 – Harrisburg Patriot News and the York Daily Record. Each major daily paper included significant comments and information concerning the efforts of the Diocese of Harrisburg takes to prevent abuse of minors. Information was included about our training methods, background checks and ever vigilant attitude in protecting children. These stories were triggered by the Jerry Sandusky / Penn State abuse issue.

November 12, 2012 – Shamokin News Item, interview comments from Bishop Joseph McFadden regarding the need for increased awareness of abuse of minors in all areas of society.

December 12, 2012 – Harrisburg Patriot News. A meeting that the Catholic Schools office held for all coaches in all sports on the topic of Mandated Reporting was featured in a story the paper did on how schools in the area are responding the issue in light of the PSU / Sandusky issue.

On-Line Media

A Video entitled, “Jesus Working Through You” was developed this year that educates and informs teenagers from the ages of 14 to 17 about recognizing and reporting of abuse of minors. The goal was to help them to recognize the signs of abuse in youth along with a strong message that any suspected abuse must be reported and not kept a secret.

The video is 7minutes and 40 seconds and is available to all via the Diocesan YouTube Channel and the Diocesan website. For those rare instances where internet access is an issue a no cost DVD can be made available. The video was made available in late June, results on its use will be available next year.

Victims Assistance Link – This past year a link was placed in the Youth Protection area of the Diocesan website to the Victims Assistance area of the USCCB website.

Cable TV Message -_a 30 second TV Public Service Announcement produced by the Diocese promotes the use of the PA Child Abuse Hotline and the Diocesan Hotline for reporting suspected abuse of a minor. The spot ran an average of 13 times each week of the year on a rotating schedule in various parts of the day. The message ran an estimated 676 times. The cable channel is part of the service of Comcast Cable covering the Harrisburg metro area from Palmyra & Hershey, through the East & West shores of Harrisburg as far as Millersburg. The channel reaches approximately 140,000 homes.

Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut

Director of Safe Environment and Coordinator of Safe Environment met with Hartford Public Schools administration interested in establishing a children’s Safe Environment program. Explained our program and offered assistance to their Executive Director of Finances and their Director of Risk Management.

Office of Safe Environment for the Archdiocese of Hartford initiated an enhanced database for collection and recording of information regarding our Child Lures program, our *Protecting’s God’s Children* program and our background check investigations. Information regarding our programs can now be disseminated to all of our parishes directly through e-mail.

Background check coordinator met with two representatives from *Mind Your Business, Inc.*, our criminal background check investigation company. They explained the new programs offered by their company, and asked if there was anything further their company could provide for us to make our daily input/reports/monthly billing more efficient for our use.

Diocese of Honolulu, Hawaii

April – Child Abuse Prevention Month

During the month of April, parishes and schools were provided with:

A calendar of activities that families could do together. For example:

Monday, April 9: Pray the rosary together, learn how to make your own rosary.

Tuesday, April 17: Donate used clothing, toys or household items to charity.

“Learning About Abuse” tip cards were distributed to every parish and Catholic school from the Hawaii Children’s Trust Fund.

A calendar educational and fun Community Events;

APRIL 14 *Building One Strong `Ohana Teddy Bear Drive & Family Resource Fair- OAHU*

APRIL 14

Valley Isle Keiki Fest- MAUI

APRIL 21

4th Annual YMCA Healthy Kids Day at Bishop Museum-OAHU

APRIL 21

Celebrate Your Family Event-Big Island-HILO

Articles on:

“Talking to Your Child about Personal Safety”

Source: The Sex Abuse Treatment Center of Hawaii <http://www.satchawaii.org/>

Examples:

Before talking to your child about personal safety, prepare by reviewing the Key Messages below. Decide how and what you’d like to cover.

Set time aside to talk to your child or look for ways to weave the conversation into everyday activities— bath time, changing clothes, doctor visits, during rides in the car, etc.

Key Messages for Young Children:

Examples:

Your body belongs to you.

You can always talk to me – about someone touching your private parts or anything else that bothers you.

These brief articles and activities could be cut and pasted into Parish bulletins, School newsletters, etc.

Collaboration with other non-profit organizations:

Sex Abuse Treatment Center- Statistics and information

Hawaii Children’s Trust Fund and Joyful Heart Foundation- Abuse tip cards “One Strong Ohana” ad

Campaign (TV and radio commercials, newspaper ads)

17th Annual Men’s March Against Violence: March and Rally, Thursday, October 13, 2011

Throughout the Parishes and Schools:

On Oahu:

A number of parishes and schools held “Keiki ID” at family fairs, carnivals, etc. Keiki ID or Child Identification kits contain information on a child, a recent photo, and sometimes DNA (strand of hair) and dental information.

One school held a Keiki Safety Fair where organizations like the Honolulu Fire Department, City & County Lifeguards, the Attorney General's office, etc. shared information on water safety, car safety, abduction and abuse.

Parent workshops on:

Internet Safety with Honolulu Police Department Cyber Crimes.

Bullying

Safety Tips for home and School

A parish on Oahu had a Safe Environment Fair on October 9, 2011.

3 schools held Health and Safety Fairs.

On the Neighbor Islands:

On the Big Island, one parish had "Safe Environment Day" on April 29, 2012.

On Kauai, one school held a carnival which featured the Kauai Police Department Keiki I.D. booth.

Faith Formation Conference for Religious Educators, Lay Ministers and Clergy

June 21-23, 2012

Workshops presented:

Keep Our Children Safe in Cyberspace with Sr. John Joseph Gilligan

My Body, My Borders for Children: Introduction-Circles of Care and Sex Abuse Treatment Center Curriculum. Presenters: Sr. John-Joseph Gilligan and Keahi Teson, SEC

My Body, My Borders for Teens: Introduction-Circles of Care and Sex Abuse Treatment Center Curriculum. Presenters: Kathy Lee, DRE St. John Vianney and Keahi Teson, SEC

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. They verify information (criminal background clearance and dates trained) on priests, staff, deacons and the religious. They also review the list of individuals that work or have contact with children/youth also verifying criminal clearance and training.

Website

Four 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 Bayou Catholic Magazine, 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 to the educational aspect of 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).

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 know 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.

Policy and Procedure Manual

Developed and distributed to all diocesan schools and parishes. Includes policies, procedures, forms and other additional information about Safe Environment. This is also available on the diocesan Safe Environment website.

Diocese of Indianapolis, Indiana

1. Announced a new comprehensive program to educate children in grades K through 12 and their parents about safe boundaries. We purchased the rights to use the Circle of Grace Program which was developed by the Archdiocese of Omaha, and we are training facilitators to implement the program during the fall of 2012. Previously, each parish and school was expected to incorporate child safety information into its curriculum, and we are pleased to now offer a more consistent approach to educating children and their parents about this vitally important topic.

2. Promulgated a new Code of Conduct to reinforce behavioral standards for clergy, employees, and volunteers as they interact with youth. In addition to providing written copies of the Code to clergy, employees, and volunteers, we posted it on our website and printed 400 posters containing the Code of Conduct to be displayed at parishes, schools, and agencies. We hope that these posters serve as constant reminders of what we expect of everyone who ministers to children.

3. Initiated a new, confidential, third-party reporting process for allegations of child sexual abuse and for Code of Conduct violations. Our site at www.archdioceseofindianapolis.ethicspoint.com allows individuals to make reports without giving their names. This online reporting option is also promoted on posters displayed in our parishes, schools, and agencies that contain the Code of Conduct. There is even a QR code on the posters to allow people to instantly connect to the reporting site. We believe that by encouraging reports of Code of Conduct violations we will be able to detect situations where a child is a risk and hopefully prevent more serious harm to children through early intervention.

4. Conducted criminal history re-checks for over 1,900 employees using our centralized payroll database and engaging our background check vendor to process re-checks on employees who had not been checked in 5 years. By centralizing the process of re-checks, we can promote compliance with our re-check policy and ensure that it is consistently implemented at every parish, school, and agency of the archdiocese.

Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi

PUBLICATIONS:

The Diocesan Newspaper, *Mississippi Catholic*, publishes quarterly 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 noted in the published statement. The statement instructs the reader to refer to the diocesan website for policies and procedures in providing a safe environment for children/youth. Each parish is required to publish the statement quarterly in their parish bulletin.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY:

As we move forward with technology, it is important that all adults, specifically our employees/significant volunteers, recognize their role in keeping young people safe. An electronic communications policy was implemented during the audit period. The policy was established so that Church officials can appropriately monitor communication between employees/significant volunteers and the young people they minister.

ADULT SAFE ENVIRONMENT REVIEW SESSION:

The diocese requires that any active employee/significant volunteer participate in a review session every odd-number calendar year. In an effort to be vigilant in our ministry to children and youth, the review session is part of the ongoing educational component of the Protection of Children Policy. All active employees/significant volunteers participated in the review session during the audit year. The diocese created the safe environment online review program which is a web-based program compatible with the Protection of Children Database. The program allows the applicant to login to the Protection of Children Database, review the lessons and answer the quizzes after each lesson. After completing the online session, the Protection of Children Database automatically updates an applicant's review session date and presents the applicant with their test score and certificate.

Additionally, the 2011-2012 on-line review session included a self-generated video, *Kimberly's Story*. Kimberly is a victim of child sexual abuse. She graciously and courageously shared her powerful story with the diocese.

SITE MEETINGS:

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

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH:

April is recognized nationwide as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Child abuse awareness resources were forwarded to all the parishes and schools.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN WEBSITE:

The Protection of Children Policy, training reports, resource information and the curriculum for children/youth are located on the Diocesan Protection of Children website.

Diocese of Joliet, Illinois

Creation of the Office of Child and Youth Protection. This office will provide greater oversight of all aspects of Safe Environment.

Initial efforts have been made to expand the support for facilitators of Virtus Protecting Gods Children program including expanding the languages in which the classes are offered.

Solidify the procedure used when accusations of abuse are made.

Begin to develop “safety plans” for those who have been accused of abuse.

Coordination with other diocesan agencies to provide crisis intervention services when emergencies occur including a crisis team to provide services to schools, parishes or agencies impacted by any type of trauma.

Early formation of an on-sight safe environment audit process for each parish/ school/agency.

This is to be implemented in the fall of 2012.

Diocese of Juneau, Alaska

Our Victim Assistance Office continues to offer classes and workshops in our conference room in the evenings for victims of all forms of childhood abuse. We have done this for four years now and have group meetings year round.

We offer an extensive library of materials that can be borrowed by anyone in the community on the topics of sexual abuse, all forms of childhood abuse, spiritual growth, self esteem, boundaries and various addictions.

The Safe Environment Coordinator has met with other agencies in the community and shared the resources and practices regarding creating a safe environment for children. Other churches are beginning to implement their own safe environment practices and appreciate seeing what has worked for the Diocese of Juneau.

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 *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.

The Diocese of Kalamazoo requires criminal background checks be renewed every five (5) years. This is the fourth 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: Implemented an adjudication procedure to involve a review committee and a rubric.

Contracted with American Checked, Inc., Tulsa, OK for out-of-state and out-of-country background checks. 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

On July 1, 2011 an independent investigator was hired as the diocesan Ombudsman and members of the diocese were asked to report all allegations of abuse or suspected abuse to the Ombudsman. Subsequently, the new Ombudsman made a proposal that the diocese form an office to focus specifically on the task of ensuring the diocese is following the Charter guidelines. I was hired on Dec. 1, 2011 as the director and the Office of Child and Youth Protection began. I've attached the flyer which outlines our org chart and scope. We have been drafting new policies and procedures and protocol so that everyone knows fully what is expected of them to keep children safe in our diocese.

Diocese of Knoxville, Tennessee

Our Diocesan Review Board polled various groups regarding the *DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE'S POLICY AND PROCEDURE RELATING TO SEXUAL MISCONDUCT* to determine what policy areas they felt needed to be amended so as to be more user-friendly and appropriate. This is the first time we have polled the end-users of the policy. The Diocesan Review Board not only incorporated their annual updates (based upon Charter updates) to the policy but also made amendments as generated by the poll.

The Chancellor of the diocese (Child Protection Officer) developed a seminar that was provided to all the priests, directors of religious education and parish/institution safe environment coordinators. This seminar focused on proper "safe environment program" recordkeeping and integrity of such records and reports.

Three of our pastors now require all volunteers (regardless of whether or not they could be alone with minors or vulnerable adults) to comply with our training and background check requirements. After the first pastor instituted this requirement – the other two promptly followed. We hope this is a trend that will continue. We believe everyone should have an awareness of the child abuse issue.

Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana

The following is submitted as reflective of this diocese's/eparchy's advancement in the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. Each example took place during the current audit period, and exceeds what is required by the *Charter*.

The Diocese of Lafayette conducts on-site audits at the various locations, modeling the parish audit information provided through SCYP.

The Diocese of Lafayette actively marketed (and had many participants) in a conference presented by the Rucks Foundation (a private local foundation) on pornography.

A number of our schools hosted national speakers presenting conferences on cyberbullying.

An Officer with the Louisiana State Police, Special Crimes Unit, presented a workshop to the clergy on Internet Safety.

Fr. Curtis Mallet, Vicar General, has presented various workshops to the clergy on mandatory reporting and code of conduct.

Our diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator and Victim Assistance Coordinated participated in the National Safe Environment/Victim Assistance Coordinators conference.

We had an instance this year where one of our volunteers (youth ministry) was arrested and charged with sexual misconduct with a minor. This individual was very involved in many of our parish and school youth ministry programs. Upon receiving the news of his arrest, we immediately called in the school principals and pastors that we were aware had involvement with him. We also immediately contacted the State Police to see if we could work with them on presenting "town hall" type meetings to locations. They were very welcome and very appreciative of our cooperation. Communication was sent out to all locations as well as placed on the website, along with updates.

This was a very difficult time for us; however, the good that came out of it is that 1) our parents become more aware and realized the importance of the safe environment program; 2) our locations (pastors/principals) "got it" as to the importance of ongoing education and awareness programs; and 3) the law enforcement agencies (and the general public) are assured that we are not going to brush anything under the rug, we are going to address it and do what we can to get help to the necessary persons

Diocese of Lansing, Michigan

Hosted state-wide safe environment coordinator meeting. Mary Jane Doerr, Associate Director of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection reviewed the John Jay "Causes and Context" study.

Sponsored workshops at the Diocese of Lansing's Common Conference, September 29 and 30, 2011.

Beyond the Schoolyard: Cyber-Bullies, presented by Robert Hugh Farley, expert consultant and author to the Virtus programs

Child Molesters: Creating a Safe Learning Environment for Children and Educators, Robert Hugh Farley, presenter

Virtus Technology and Audit Compliance, Patricia Neal, Director of the Virtus Programs and Sally Ellis, SEC/Diocese of Lansing, presenters
Protecting God's Children Awareness Session for Adults training session held September 30

In addition, the Department of Catholic Charities sponsored a workshop on "Internet Pornography: Tapeworm of the Mind – Facts, Figures and Treatment", presented by Sister Marysia Weber, RSM, D.O.

Sponsored a luncheon at the Common Conference for Virtus facilitators with Bob Farley and Patricia Neal attending. Facilitators discussed the Virtus training programs with Bob and Pat.

Two audit workshops were held – March 6 and 8, 2012. Audit contacts from parishes, schools and agencies were invited to attend.

Conducted data collection audits of parishes, schools, pastoral centers and retreat centers.

Conducted a physical plant audit of parishes, schools, pastoral centers and retreat centers.

Distributed posters throughout the diocese in an effort to aid the Michigan Department of Human Services' campaign announcing the new telephone number to report abuse and neglect of children and adults.

Department of Catholic Charities sponsored a workshop presented by Dawn Eden regarding her book, *My Peace I Give You: Healing Sexual Wounds with the Help of the Saints*.

Distributed the *Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal* poster throughout the diocese, containing contact information for the victim assistance coordinator.

Distributed at Virtus Protecting God's Children for Adults training sessions the booklet, *Net Cetera: Chatting with Kids About Being Online*, published by OnGuard Online

Diocese of Laredo, Texas

The Diocese of Laredo participated in the National Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign. The Chancery hosted a pinwheel planting garden that included students from our local Catholic Schools and Religious Education Program for public school students. The Bishop and Superintendent of Schools addressed the students and thanked them for their participation. Several students provided testimony of how their teachers have helped them learn about child abuse and ways to prevent child abuse.

Pinwheels for Prevention planting garden was initiated at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Laredo. Students from the Religious Education Program planted the pinwheels with their Catechists, Pastors, and the Diocesan Director of Religious Education, the Bishop and the Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator.

The local news station, Pro 8 News, interviewed the Most Reverend James A. Tamayo, D.D. regarding the significance of the Pinwheels for Prevention project held at the diocese. The Safe Environment Coordinator was interviewed as well.

II.

A 5 page article titled, “Protecting Our Children” was included in *La Fe*, the Magazine of the Diocese of Laredo.

The Chancery grounds were decorated in observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month throughout April.

A Blue Ribbon tree was decorated at San Martin de Porres Parish in Laredo. Students from the Religious Education Program participated and greatly enjoyed the event.

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.

III.

English and Spanish Radio announcements are aired 24/7 on KHOY 88.1 FM (diocesan catholic radio station)- with parenting tips, prevention resources, reporting laws and reporting information.

Informational resources and links to child abuse prevention information and other sites are available on the diocesan website.

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 Pastoral 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.

IV.

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 were sent to diocesan employees during 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

ADDITIONAL EFFORTS/OUTREACH TO SPANISH SPEAKING COMMUNITY

We have made additional efforts to outreach to the Spanish Speaking community. Not only have we trained all Spanish Speaking parishioners with a ministry with children, but many other volunteers as well. We trained two Spanish language facilitators for Protecting God's Children, and trained 269 people in the Spanish Language format, which is a full one third of all newly trained people during the audit year.

ROUTINE PARISH PROCEDURE REVIEWS/AUDITS BY VAC

The Victim's Assistance Coordinator/Safe Environment Coordinator personally visits each parish and school twice per year to verify compliance with procedures.

REQUIRED VIRTUS MONTHLY AWARENESS BULLETINS

Each person with a ministry with children is required to read and complete a Virtus monthly awareness bulletin to remain in compliance with Diocesan policy and to maintain eligible volunteer status.

Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky

In September of 2011, we hired a dedicated auditor to work with our diocesan parishes and schools. She makes regular visits to our locations to aid in development and implementation of our Safe Environment program requirements such as file maintenance, SE training and documentation. Under the supervision of the Chancellor's Office, the results are then documented and a further plan of action is developed.

Her visits are proving to be productive and well received by the locations. They appreciate the "one-on-one" opportunity to discuss how to improve their procedures and achieve the desired level of compliance.

Diocese of Little Rock, AR

As part of our efforts to educate individuals on safe environments the Diocesan Safe Environment Office and the Catholic Schools Office hosted Barbara Coloroso with "Kids Are Worth It, Inc" to speak to all educators in our catholic schools on bullying. Mrs. Coloroso is an international speaker and author in the areas of parenting, teaching, school discipline, non-violent conflict resolution and reconciliatory justice. She is an educational consultant for school districts, the medical and business community, the criminal justice system and other educational associations around the world. She has served as a classroom teacher, a laboratory school instructor, and a university instructor and is the author of five international bestsellers.

On March 9, 2011 for our catholic schools "Professional Day" 580 teachers, principals and others attended the conference. Mrs. Coloroso topic was: The Bully, the Bullied, the Bystander, Breaking the Cycle of Violence. She received a standing ovation and after the conference we received several requests to bring her back to speak to parents.

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Addressing Sexual Abuse. California, with its diverse population, offers a particular challenge in addressing sexual abuse in all communities and cultures. In 2012, the Archdiocese has expanded its direct outreach by offering the core parish and online resources (e.g., Code of Conduct, Guidelines for Adults Working with Minors at Parish or Parish School Activities or Events, Working Together brochures, etc.) in Korean, Japanese and Vietnamese as well as the principal languages of English and Spanish.

Cyber Crime Prevention Symposium. The Archdiocese has worked to achieve a “place at the table” with the Los Angeles Inter-Agency Council of Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) and other government and civic and non-profit groups focused on youth services. In 2011 and 2012, the Archdiocese co-sponsored the Cyber Crime Prevention Symposium for parents, educators, students and representatives of law enforcement and government from across the area. Suzanne Healy, the Victims Assistance Coordinator, has had a leadership role in these efforts. The Fourth Annual Cyber Crime Prevention Symposium will be held on Monday, November 5, 2012.

Becoming Home Orientation Program for Priests and Religious from Foreign Countries Ministering in the Archdiocese. Of the priests serving in the Archdiocese, approximately 50 come each year from foreign countries as externs or for assignments in the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese has developed “Becoming Home” – a year-long program initiated in July 2010 to provide the priests with practical skills and information to live and more effectively minister in the United States and to feel “at home” in the Archdiocese. The program, coordinated by the Vicar for Clergy and Sister Ann Carla Costello, S.N.D., the former Vicar for Women Religious, has approximately 35 hours of content spread over monthly sessions and covers the following topics: The Church in Los Angeles, Ethnic Diversity, The Synod, Priestly Issues, Practical Concerns, Safeguarding and Forming Our Children, Educational Opportunities, Networking and Mentoring, Collaboration and Parish Life, Catholic Education, Human Resources, Immigration Issues, *Civil* and *Canon Law* and U.S. Culture.

Play Like a Champion. The Archdiocese has continued its support and collaboration with the “Play Like a Champion” youth and high school coach training program developed by Notre Dame University and now used in a number of dioceses in the United States and Canada. Through this collaboration, the program developed the first integrated youth program and now has an enhanced “safe environment” perspective and specific “safe environment” modules in the all-day high school program to allow coaches to fulfill their safe environment training requirement in the Notre Dame program. Joan Vienna, Coordinator of the Office of Safeguard the Children, and Margaret Graf, General Counsel, were speakers at the 2012 national meeting at Notre Dame, and were each recognized for their contributions to youth programs and training initiatives.

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 them 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.

We utilize the internet/website as our main communication source with our parishes and coordinators. Bishop Morlino has insisted that each parish be setup with internet access.

Listed below are some of the publications/articles that were placed on the Diocesan Safe Environment Webpage and directly emailed to our Safe Environment Coordinators to be dispersed to the parents, teachers and parishioners of the Diocese to help keep our Diocesan children safe from sexual predators.

10/21/2011 – Take 25 Halloween Safety information

12/6/2011 – Take 25 Holiday Safety Tips

02/23/2012 – Take 25 information regarding May 25th National Missing Children's Day

06/06/12 – June National Internet Safety Month

Diocese of Manchester

Masses for Healing of Those Affected by Child Abuse

Two Masses for the Healing of Those Affected by Child Abuse were held during this audit year. These Masses are held to provide an opportunity for all those affected in any way by child abuse, as well as the Catholic faithful, to come together to pray for healing and reconciliation. Masses are advertised throughout the diocese and all are welcome to attend. Diocesan staff, including the Chancellor, Delegate for Ministerial Conduct, Director of the Office for Healing & Pastoral Care, Tribunal Judges, Director of Safe Environment Programs, and Safe Environment Assistant, also attended these Masses.

The first Mass was held on December 15, 2011 at St. Andre Bessette Parish in Laconia. Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci, D.D. was the celebrant and Rev. Marc Drouin, pastor of St. Andre Bessette, was the homilist. Several other priests concelebrated the Mass. The Safe Environment Council representative from the local deanery was a greeter and distributed child safety prayer cards to all attendees. Approximately 50 people attended the Mass and a reception that followed in the church hall. Attendees had many positive comments and were especially grateful to have the opportunity to meet with Bishop Libasci.

The second healing Mass was held at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester, on April 24, 2012 in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Bishop Libasci was the celebrant and homilist; several priests concelebrated. Members of the Safe Environment Council were present and acted as greeters, the lector, and gift bearers. There were approximately 60 people in attendance at the

Mass and reception which followed. Again, attendees expressed positive comments about this opportunity to pray for those who have been abused. The diocese plans to continue offering these healing Masses.

Trauma Recovery Program

The Diocese of Manchester sponsored a 10-week trauma recovery treatment program known as *Pathways to Healing* during the months of March through May 2012. This treatment model was developed by Colin A. Ross, M.D., for Catholics who have experienced childhood abuse and neglect. Meetings were facilitated by Ruth Murray, LMHC; Susan McKinnon, M.Ed.; and Rev. Thomas Duston, and were held on March 14, 21, & 28, April 4, 11, 18, & 25, and May 2, 9 & 16 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Concord, NH. The goal of this program is to help participants overcome their past traumas and learn to live effectively in the present.

Ten-Year Report to the Faithful

In April, 2012, the Office for Ministerial Conduct of the Diocese of Manchester issued a special Ten-Year Report, *Diocese of Manchester Child Protection Measures During the Past Ten Years*, in recognition of the ten year anniversary of the sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church. The report included a letter from Bishop Libasci; a timeline of child protection efforts in the diocese over the past ten years; a description of the Office for Healing and Pastoral Care and services provided to victims; information about our clergy; and other information about our child safety efforts. The report was sent to all parishes for distribution to all parishioners at Sunday Masses and to diocesan Catholic schools and camps for distribution to staff. The report was also posted on the Diocese of Manchester website and a press release was issued to local media. The report may be viewed at <http://www.catholicnh.org/child-safety/what-s-happening/>

The intended audience for this report was all Catholics in the State of New Hampshire. It is believed that this goal was met due to the widespread distribution. The report was intended to provide Catholics with a thorough, transparent summary of what the Church in New Hampshire has been doing over the past ten years to address the problem of clergy abuse.

Not on My Watch Online Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention & Refresher Training

In September, 2011, the Diocese of Manchester began using an online training program known as *Not on My Watch* as an alternative to live *Protecting God's Children* training for all those adults who will work regularly with minors. In January 2012, the diocese also began using this online training as a refresher course: all those whose initial training had been completed prior to 2009 were required to complete *Not on My Watch*.

Not on My Watch was developed by the Diocese of Manchester in collaboration with The McCalmon Group and topics covered include not only child sexual abuse and perpetrators of sexual abuse, but also child neglect and physical abuse. The training is designed so that trainees cannot skip through the lessons and must complete a test at the end of each segment. *Not on My Watch* is available in English and will soon be available in Spanish. This training is comprehensive and is easy to access on any internet-connected computer; it is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As a result of offering online training, the diocese was able to reduce the training timeline requirement for volunteers from 90 days to 45 days. To date, more than 6,000

priests, deacons, seminarians, employees, and volunteers have completed *Not on My Watch* training.

Safe Environment Conference

On Saturday, March 17, 2012, the Office for Ministerial Conduct held its eighth annual diocesan-wide Safe Environment Conference. Approximately 50 Safe Environment Coordinators, Safe Environment Council members, training facilitators, Catholic school personnel, and parish staff members involved in the implementation of the Diocese of Manchester's safe environment programs and policies attended the conference. Bishop Libasci addressed attendees and thanked them for their work with children.

Two speakers gave presentations. The first speaker, Detective Kristyn Bernier of the New Hampshire Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and Portsmouth Police Department, spoke about her work with sex offenders. The second speaker, Keryn Bernard-Kriegl of the New Hampshire Children's Trust, provided information about resources that are available to New Hampshire Families in need.

The purpose of our annual safe environment conferences is to not only provide information about diocesan policies and ensure consistency in implementation, it is also to acknowledge and commend the attendees for their child protection efforts, to motivate them to continue their efforts, and to give them opportunities to network with others who share their roles.

Safe Environment Council

The Environment Council consists of one representative from each of the nine deaneries in the Diocese of Manchester and up to two at-large members. Each member is recommended by the Dean and appointed by the Bishop to a three-year term. The Safe Environment Council advises the safe environment office regarding child safety policies and procedures including training and screening of Church personnel. The Safe Environment Council meets three to four times per year.

The benefits of the Safe Environment Council include more effective implementation of child safety policies and procedures and broader consultation and collaboration with the laity.

Safe Environment Newsletter

A special fall newsletter was issued in September 2011 focusing on Safe Environment News. The newsletter was provided electronically to all pastors, principals, camp administrators, and parish and school Safe Environment Coordinators, who were encouraged to share it with others. The newsletter also was posted on the diocesan website.

The purpose of the newsletter is to communicate news about diocesan safe environment policies, procedures, and events and to general provide child safety information to readers. The newsletters are prepared at least annually and coordinators report that they often share the information staff and parents.

Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the main page of the diocesan website www.catholicnh.org featured child safety information. The information that was highlighted included the Ten Year Report (discussed above) and the April Healing Mass. The Diocese of Manchester's electronic newsletter, eNews, also highlighted these events. Both the website and eNews also featured a link to child safety resources for parents.

Also during this month, Safe Environment Coordinators were provided a sample "script" that could be used for them to deliver a presentation to parishioners about their own parish's child safety efforts. Pastors were encouraged to ask their coordinator to speak at Masses or at other parish gatherings. A number of coordinators reported that they conducted presentations and that the response from parishioners was very positive and supportive. Many people said that they were pleasantly surprised to hear about the church's efforts to prevent abuse, and glad that this information had been made available to them because they were not aware of all that has been done.

Training Webinar for Safe Environment Coordinators

The safe environment office of the Diocese of Manchester hosted a training webinar for Safe Environment Coordinators on December 13, 2011. The computer-based meeting was used to educate coordinators about the new *Not on My Watch* training as well as the new refresher training requirement which was coming up in January 2012. The webinar was recorded and the recording was sent by email to all coordinators for their reference.

The safe environment office has hosted annual webinars over the past two years in order to provide ongoing training to coordinators. The webinars cover aspects of the safe environment procedures that have been identified as areas of confusion or areas needing improvement, based upon the prior year's site visit results. A survey was conducted following one of the webinars and coordinators reported that it was helpful to them in their work. In addition, the webinars provide the opportunity for those coordinators who live in more remote areas of the state to participate in a meeting without having to travel.

Collaboration with New Hampshire Children's Trust

The Diocese of Manchester collaborated with the NH Children's Trust on several projects and events this past year. The NH Children's Trust is the Governor's Designated Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Agency. The projects were:

Sponsorship of Strengthening Families Summit- The Diocese of Manchester was a sponsor of the Strengthening Families Summit, held in Concord, NH on March 19, 2012. The summit brought together professionals from a wide variety of family-serving agencies from all around the State of NH. Nationally known speakers provided information about how all of these providers can work together in the best interest of children and families. The safe environment office sponsored a table at this event and was able to distribute brochures and materials about our child safety programs.

Donation to NH Children's Trust to fund the Period of Purple Crying Program- The Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund provided a \$1,000.00 grant to this program, which is to educate

parents of newborns and the general public about normal infant crying patterns, how to respond to crying, and the dangers of shaking infants.

Conference Speaker- As noted above, Keryn Bernard-Kriegl Executive Director of the NH Children's Trust provided information about resources for families in our state and that role that Catholic parishes and schools can play in the effort to prevent child abuse.

Parable Magazine Features

In its May/June issue, the magazine of the Diocese of Manchester, *Parable*, included information about the Ten-Year report along with a link to the report. In addition, information about the annual Safe Environment Conference and the December 2011 and April 2012 Masses of Healing were included in the magazine's calendar section during the year.

Site Reviews

The Diocese of Manchester Compliance Officer and her staff continue to make site visits to diocesan parishes, schools, and summer camps to verify compliance with all safe environment policies and procedures. The diocesan site review plan provides for a site visit to every parish and school at least once every four years (and more frequently if needed) and at least once a year to the camps. During the 2011-2012 audit year, review visits were made to 29 parishes (consisting of 32 churches) and 10 schools. The site visit process includes viewing documentation, interviewing pastors, principals, safe environment coordinators, and catechetical leaders, and preparing reports which include recommendations. In addition, during the site visits, ongoing training is provided to those responsible for implementation of the safe environment policies and procedures.

Among the benefits of these site visits are: (1) more effective implementation of the safe environment policies and procedures throughout the Diocese; (2) the establishment of a process that is sustained and makes it clear to the Christian faithful that the Diocese has made the commitment to a safe environment a permanent aspect of the Catholic culture in New Hampshire; and (3) the greater ability to have persons who can speak to the magnitude and depth of the commitment of the Diocese to a safe environment culture.

Safe Environment Database

The Diocese of Manchester utilizes an online database to track safe environment compliance of all those who regularly work with minors at parishes, schools, and camps. Each entity is required to regularly update the database with the names of those currently working with minors at the entity. The database is a secure online application that is accessible by authorized individuals (pastors, principals, safe environment coordinators, and diocesan safe environment staff) from any personal computer. Entity users are able to look up names, insert information about whether the appropriate documents are on file for each person, and update the status of individuals. Diocesan users have the ability to edit to all aspects of the database including training and background check information (entity users cannot edit training or background check dates). The database tracks the timelines for completion of the safe environment requirements and displays a message if a person is overdue. In addition, on a monthly basis, automatic email notifications are sent to entity users listing the names of any overdue individuals. The database is a tool that has resulted in: (1) improved communication between

entities and the diocesan safe environment office; (2) better adherence to the required timelines; (3) higher rates of compliance.

Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal Posters and Wallet-size Reporting Cards

The Diocese of Manchester continues to distribute to all of its parishes and Catholic schools posters with information about how to report abuse by someone representing the Catholic Church. The posters display the telephone numbers of the NH Division for Children, Youth & Families and the Diocese of Manchester's Director of the Office for Healing and Pastoral Care (the victim assistance coordinator). In addition, on the posters are clear plastic pockets that contain wallet-size cards, setting forth these telephone numbers as well as information about the reporting requirements for Church personnel.

The Office for Ministerial Conduct periodically provides new posters and reporting cards to the Safe Environment Coordinators of the parishes and schools of the diocese. In addition, during her site visits (see above), the Safe Environment Compliance Officer or her staff ensure that a *Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal* poster is displayed and provide the parish or school with an additional supply of reporting cards.

The benefits of the posters and reporting cards are that they: (1) offer a discreet way for those who suspect or experienced sexual abuse of a minor to obtain information about how to report the abuse; (2) provide a reminder of the Church's commitment to assist those subjected to abuse and of the importance of making reports to the appropriate authorities; and (3) offer a convenient way to remind those who regularly work with minors about how to make a report of sexual abuse of a minor.

Diocese of Marquette, Michigan

During the 2011-2012 audit period the Diocese of Marquette implemented the following advancement:

The Bishops of Michigan met with the Major Superiors of clerical institutes serving in the dioceses of Michigan to work out and formalize a clear and precise agreement and understanding regarding the roles of the Bishops and the Major Superiors concerning the issue of allegations made against a clerical member of a religious institute ministering in a diocese of Michigan.

Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee dedicated the week of April 15th, 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 human dignity and safe environments.

The Safe Environment Coordinator and a priest from the archdiocese recorded Archbishop ListECKI's Living Our Faith radio program talking about human dignity as the foundation of all safe environments.

Archbishop ListECKI wrote Love One Another for Safe Environment Week and was also the featured blog for the week.

Bishop Hying wrote a Herald of Hope article on human dignity and safe environments.
Bulletin announcements were sent out to parishes
The safe environment office partnered with the Nazareth Project on a newsletter about human dignity and safe environments

The annual Mass of Atonement was held on March 29, 2012.
School District meetings were visited by Safe Environment coordinator to discuss Mandatory Reporting Policies and Procedures
Safe Environment Coordinator continued to visit parishes and schools to provide assistance in meeting all standards and ensuring compliance.
A compilation of supplemental curriculum was collected and will be used in updating curriculum throughout the archdiocese.
Began working with Catholic colleges and universities to bring the safe environment education directly into the classrooms so that when current education students begin teaching they will have already been prepared to teach in Catholic schools. This also benefits those who will be in other school districts as it makes everyone aware of how to keep our children safe.
Safe Environment Coordinator meets with new principals and new directors of religious education to review the Safeguarding All of God's Family program.

Diocese of Monterey, California

Sr. Patricia Murtagh attended The National Safe Environment Coordinator and Victim Assistance Coordinators Leadership Conference in Omaha Nebraska- August 12-16, Audit Workshop in Omaha, Nebraska.

Diocese of Nashville, Tennessee

In an effort to better address internet safety, the Diocese of Nashville has included a special link on the training presentation entitled "Protecting Our Youth & Maintaining a Safe Environment – The Duty to Report Child Abuse & Neglect" to Netsmartz.org that offers a number of videos and presentations for parents, educators, law enforcement, and teens. The link is positioned at the beginning of the training presentation to draw attention to the importance of internet safety. The link is included here: <http://www.netsmartz.org/>.

In an effort to augment our current safe environment program and support the USCCB document "Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living". A pilot program has been introduced using the RCL Benziger Family Life K-8 Family Life program. It provides parents with material for children that provides age appropriate understanding of human sexuality based upon Catholic Church moral principles. The intention is to field this diocesan wide as an additional resource to working with parents to develop better communication skills with their children, promote healthy family relationships and formation in chaste living.

Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

1. 120 children in the catechetical programs of 11 of our parishes participated in a pilot program to take courses in child safety as follows:

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)

These courses were purchased by the Archdiocese from a company called Shield The Vulnerable. The courses will be available to all parishes in the upcoming audit year.

2. An additional Shield the Vulnerable course, Detecting Predators, was offered to one military priest who was unable to take safe environment training where he was deployed. It covered similar content to our Protecting God's Children program. The course will be offered to other clergy in similar situations in the future, and also used as one of the options for re-training when that requirement takes affect next year.

2. On May 25, we participated in the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Take 25 initiative, by offering a 90 minute session on Internet Safety for Children at the Archdiocesan Center. 30 attendees came. In addition, the session was offered in November, 2011 at the Catechist Convocation, and at several of the county Parish Catechetical Leader sessions.

3. On the recommendation of our background screening vendor, LexisNexis, in August of 2011, we added the NJ Sexual Offender registry to the required background checks of employees and volunteers.

Archdiocese of New Orleans, Louisiana

Revision of policies: Policy Concerning the Abuse or Neglect of Minors, Principles of Ethics and Integrity in Ministry: Code of Ethics (October 1, 2011)

Sent out safety memos for parent, students and staff for Halloween, Holiday, and Mardi Gras

Schools, Parishes, and Camps participated in the programs offered through Crimestoppers on safety related issues

Sr. Mary Ellen Wheelahan served on the advisory committee for Crimestoppers Teen Ambassadors Against Crime (TAAC) Leadership Program

Sr. Mary Ellen Wheelahan received the Crimestoppers "Warren Hogan Safe School Hotline Award" at the banquet in March 2012

Participation in activities with New Orleans Children's Advocacy Center, Children's Hospital Archbishop Aymond received a tree in memory of a child who died as a direct result of child

Abuse in the State of LA. He also gave the closing prayer for the event.

Catholic Charities began the Isaiah 43 parenting and mentoring initiative. Using Active Parenting, they are offering programs throughout the Archdiocese. Sr. Mary Ellen Wheelahan will lead a parenting group this fall in one of our city school.

Mass for Victims of Violence, October 30, 2011 at the Cathedral.

Archdiocese of New York City

The Archdiocese conducted two training days for clergy, specifically directed to the question of maintaining good and healthy boundaries in ministerial relationships. The days were conducted by professional staff from the St. John Vianney Center, who are also affiliated with the VIRTUS program. The days were very well received by the audience, who found it informative and helpful.

Diocese of Norwich, Connecticut

The *Pastoral Code of Conduct*, *Sexual Misconduct* and *Comprehensive Screening* policies of the diocese are currently being revised. The revisions should be completed, approved by the Bishop and the new policies promulgated by the end of 2012.

A new diocesan policy has been written; *Diocese of Norwich Electronic Communications, Internet, and Computer Use Policy*. This should also be approved and promulgated by the Bishop by the end of 2012.

Maintaining and updating 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 Office for Safe Environments has made improvements to the database. We are now better able to track the status of diocesan personnel for a specific audit period. Additionally, Office for Safe Environments has improved the processing of how personnel applications are handled.

A form has been created that all pastors, principals, administrators, and their Child Advocates must sign. Each year they will be sent this form (OSE Form 101). As it is not feasible to visit over 100 parishes, schools and institutions every year, this serves as proof that their organization is compliant with diocesan safe environment policies. It also affords them the opportunity to review whether safe environment procedures are being implemented at their parish, school or institution.

On-site visits were conducted for certain diocesan institutions that required additional support in order to comply with diocesan policies. These reviews proved to be very helpful, and each of the organizations continues to make progress.

The Bishop's Delegate and the director of the Office for Safe Environments met with the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, Assistant Superintendent and school principals to review safe environment procedures and protocols and to answer individual questions regarding each

school's compliance, and the responsibilities of each principal. The outcome of this meeting resulted in improved communication between the schools and the Office for Safe Environments.

Diocese of Oakland, California

ADULT TRAINING

Prior to beginning any ministry, employees and volunteers are required to be trained in recognizing, preventing and reporting abuse. Training is available in a Training Workshop led by qualified trainers and through on-line courses through Shield the Vulnerable. Retraining is mandated every three years. The Diocesan sites are divided into three groups each of which is assigned to one of three cycles. Cycles are on a rotating calendar in which one cycle is scheduled every year for training/retraining. This model makes the tracking of training compliance manageable for every site, and enables them to be accountable to the Safe Environment Office for verification of the implementation of this requirement.

ADDITIONS TO WORKSHOP MODULE

The implementation of the Charter in the Diocese of Oakland includes an Intermediate Training Module which focuses on the abuse of Elders and other Dependent Vulnerable Adults. While every Training Workshop (Basic and Intermediate) includes a review of the fundamental issues of child abuse which the Charter addresses, the Intermediate training level now includes this new segment. Plans are for other options to be offered along with the basic review, i.e. bullying (children, young people and vulnerable adults), giving choices for the second half of an intermediate training.

HEALING COMMUNITIES NEWLETTER

Dr. Jaime Romo publishes a monthly *Healing Communities Newsletter* for victims/survivors of clergy sexual abuse. He is a survivor who embodies the evolution of victim to survivor to thrive to leader. He developed and implements *Safe Church Policies* and *Healing Community* practices in churches which he began in 2009. His monthly newsletter is forwarded to victims in the Diocese of Oakland by the Victims Assistance Coordinator. It is inspirational, practical, and a resource for healing.

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.

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. The presentation was given at workshops on July 29 and July 30, 2011. The catechetical leaders were grateful for the information in a succinct format, especially those who are not Safe Environment Facilitators for their parishes.

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 State civil reporting requirements, parish record-keeping required to demonstrate compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, what parishes can expect when the Archdiocese has its on-site audit in October 2012 and how to complete the parish Safe Environment surveys required to demonstrate compliance. Suggested policies and practices were also reviewed. Orientation trainings for new Parish Facilitators are offered throughout the year.

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. The workshop was presented in August 2011 at St. John Nepomuk Church, Yukon OK as part of the Catechist In-service day.

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.

E. Parent Education. A series of brochures published in English and Spanish are available for catechetical leaders to distribute to parents with children new to the religious education program. They are used at the discretion of the local catechetical leader. These brochures were developed by the Safe Environment Committee and by a parish catechetical leader in consultation with the Director of Religious Education and the Safe Environment Coordinator of the Archdiocese. Parish catechetical leaders appreciate the additional parent training materials and find them helpful when promoting the Safe Environment curriculum with parents. In addition in 2011-2012 all parents of pre-K and elementary children received an informational letter about the new Safe Environment Curriculum, Circle of Grace.

F. 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.

G. Technology Guidelines for Pastoral Work with Young People were developed. They were adapted from the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry's *Recommended Technology Guidelines for Pastoral Work with Young People*. The Catholic School Superintendent and the Directors of the offices Religious Education and Youth and Young Adult Ministry formed a committee for the initial work. A consultation on the proposed document was held with Catholic

school principals, directors of religious education and coordinators of youth ministry participating. The Safe Environment Committee then proceeded to refine the document and present it to Archbishop Coakley for approval. He approved the document in January 2012 and the document was distributed in the spring of 2012 and will be reissued this fall at the beginning of the ministry season. The ministers are working on compliance with the guidelines and informing new ministers about the guidelines.

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. 2012 was the fourth 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.

B. 2011 Partners for Change – Annual Domestic Violence Conference. Each year the Archdiocese participates in a two-day conference/workshop addressing the issue of domestic violence through sponsorship, staffing, information sharing, etc. In 2011, the Archdiocese offered scholarships to participants (need based). Each year the Conference focuses on various aspects of this wide-spread problem. 2011's focus was an examination of violence against women in many facets of life. The Keynote Address was "Reframing Domestic Violence as Coercive Control." Archbishop Coakley gave the opening Invocation.

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.

Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska

The Archdiocese of Omaha and the Diocese of Grand Island were co chairs for the national SEVAC leadership conference committee hosted by both dioceses. There has been extensive planning and coordination for this national event in August 2012.

The Archdiocese of Omaha's Anti-Pornography Task Force disseminated prevention materials at the Archdiocese's men's conference reaching over 300 participants.

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 it's children/youth prevention program *Circle of Grace* for a reasonable fee. Eighteen (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. Over 500 protestant churches have purchased the program.

The manager of victim outreach and prevention is working with the "Dove's Nest" initiative. Dove's Nest is a website for protestant churches empowering and equipping them with information and resources to keep children and youth safe in their homes, churches and communities.

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. Three other dioceses purchased the program this audit year.

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 bullying. A faith based training DVD on combating bullying was developed. There were 5 trainings throughout Nebraska. The DVD was distributed in the Archdiocese and in other faith communities.

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

Diocese of Orange, California

Safe Environment Coordinator, Victims Assistance Coordinator and Chancellor participated in the 2012 National Safe Environment Conference, Omaha, Nebraska

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.

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.

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.

In collaboration with Diocesan Human Resources department, SE Coordinator attended Diocesan Business Managers Meetings to cover Background screening procedures and SE training procedures for employees and volunteers.

SE Coordinator attended one day conference on Pornography/ among clergy. Conference was sponsored by the Diocese of San Bernardino.

SE Coordinator attended conference on Charter’s 10 Year Anniversary. Conference took place in Santa Clara University, Santa Clara. Conference was sponsored by the university.

The office of Safe Environment sponsored two Diocesan wide trainings for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Sick, Homebound and Hospitals covering the topic of Elder Abuse. Presenters were representatives from Adult Protective Services.

In collaboration with the Office of Ministry to Priest, Safe Environment Coordinator attended meeting to speak with new pastors / administrators to cover information regarding their role in safe environment. Topics included background screening, reporting procedures, and training.

Diocese of Orlando, Florida

Bishop John Noonan was installed as the fifth Bishop of Orlando on December 16, 2010. Since he was new to the diocese, there were only a few changes made while he and his advisors took the time to review the processes currently in effect. However, these changes made a significant impact on our Safe Environment program. Below described are those changes.

Parish/School Access to Clearance Records: In February 2012, at a meeting of all parish and school business managers, a representative from PrideRock explained how they could electronically log into their respective parish accounts on a real time basis to obtain the records of employees and volunteers who had completed their level I and II requirements, Further, they will be able to determine the expirations dates of those clearances without having to contact the Office of Human Resources. Having access to these records made it easier for the parishes and schools to be compliant with diocesan safe environment requirements.

Safe Environment Programs: Prior to the beginning of the 2011/2012 fiscal year, a team appointed by Bishop Noonan revisited a prior decision to implement the RCL Benziger Family Life Program for all schools and the religious education program. The Benziger program offers a comprehensive moral catechesis and addresses complex issues of contemporary family life. While the Benziger program is impressive, there was concern over the cost to the parishes and the late roll-out of the program from a budgeting perspective. A decision was made to use the Learning About L.I.F.E. program for all children enrolled in religious education programs, effective August 2012. The RCL Benziger Family Life Program will be rolled out with during the fiscal year 2012/2013 to give the schools adequate time to budget for and fund the program.

Appointment of New Safe Environment Coordinator: In an effort to become more efficient, Bishop Noonan appointed Heidi Peckham as the new Safe Environment Coordinator (in addition to her duties as the Victims Advocate Coordinator). As part of her new role, Ms. Peckham started reviewing all the volunteer “hit” files. Ms. Theresa Simon, who is the HR Senior Director as well as the former Safe Environment Coordinator, will continue to review the employee “hit” files. Ms. Peckham and Ms. Simon will work closely to maintain consistency in the manner in which these cases are reviewed.

Cultural Training for International (Foreign Born) Priests:

Fr. Richard Trout, Director for Priestly Life, conducts five meetings per year with all priests who have been ordained less than five years, or are non-incardinated. This would include all international priests. These priests meet for prayer, social and educational activities. Topics include: Appropriate Pastoral Styles with All, with a particular focus on relationships with women and children. Health, Fitness and Wellness focuses on healthy relationships, friendships and boundaries. Even the spiritual component speaks to issues of vacations, addressing traveling with companions who will avoid areas of any concerns.

This audit year, we introduced the Safe Environment Awareness Program for International Priests by VIRTUS. This program includes a quiz which all participated in which provided good conversations and dialog regarding appropriate behavior with women and children in the culture of the United States today. The response was overwhelmingly positive, so much so, Bishop Noonan will require all foreign born priests to participate in this program beginning in the 2012-2013 audit year.

Diocese of Orlando Convocation for Priests - (September 2011) Guest speaker Fr. James P. Burns. Fr. Burns completed a psychology internship at Yale School of Medicine, was awarded a Ph.D. in Counseling completed Post doctoral Fellowships at McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School as well as Boston University in the Danielsen Institute’s Center for the Study of Religion and Psychology and the Boston Psychoanalytic Society & Institute. His research examines the way church closings and trauma impact the morale of priests, pastoral leaders and community dynamics. Fr. Burns has also examined aggression in adolescent males and spirituality as well as the way the sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church and church closings has impacted morale of priests, pastoral leaders and community dynamics. Fr. spoke to self-care of the shepherd.

Diocese of Palm Beach, Florida

On February 29, 2012, the Diocese of Palm Beach hosted a workshop for all priests in the Diocese entitled “Critical Conversations”. It was planned as a 10th anniversary of the Bishop’s Charter event on a topic of extreme importance- boundary issues. Attendance at the workshop was excellent, partially due to the importance given to it by Bishop Barbarito in his letter to the priests. We were one of the first to have access to this program, developed by Father Gerard McGlone, Executive Director of St. John Vianney center, in conjunction with the Virtus Corporation. We invited Father McGlone to present that day. We will also be presenting a similar program to our permanent deacons soon and in the future to teachers and other lay staff.

Diocese of Paterson, New Jersey

Distributed to all parishes for inclusion in the weekly bulletin, “10 Ways to Know You Have a Good Child Protection Program.”

Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Office for Child and Youth Protection (OCYP) partnered with the Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA Bucks) to train all clergy, staff and volunteers regarding their responsibilities as mandated reporters as well as Archdiocesan policy. Over 90 training sessions were held at 45 different locations around the diocese. The trainings occurred from July 2011 through February 2012. Over 25,000 Clergy, staff and volunteers were trained. Overall, feedback from training participants was positive.

Honesty, Healing and Hope in Christ: Confronting the Sexual Abuse Crisis in the Archdiocese- The Archdiocese of Philadelphia created this initiative to address the ongoing needs of victims, priests with allegations of sexual abuse, and parishes. The OCYP conducted informational forums for those parishes directly affected and brought members of the multidisciplinary team to discuss the investigation process related to the priests that were placed on Administrative Leave in March 2011. Also information was provided regarding Archdiocesan policies for responding to sexual abuse allegations as well as violations of the Standards of Ministerial Behavior and Boundaries. Parishioners were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide comment. Moving forward our goal is to continue to inform, educate and provide an opportunity for parishioners to be heard through a variety of mediums and gatherings.

Announcements were made both at the parish level and to the general public via a press release or press conference regarding any priest who was placed on administrative leave or if a decision was made to permanently remove from or return to ministry due to an allegation of sexual abuse or a violation of the Standards for Ministerial Behavior and Boundaries. The OCYP partnered with victim service agencies throughout the diocese to provide support to parishes during mass regarding the announcement of priests who were placed on administrative leave, permanently removed from ministry or returning to ministry.

Diocese of Phoenix, Arizona

July 2011 – Partnered with Virtus to implement renewal video program titled *A Plan to Protect God’s Children*. This program was commercially produced.

Mass for Healing and Reconciliation:

March 22, 2012 - St. Maria Goretti parish in Phoenix, AZ. Celebrated by Bishop Thomas Olmsted.

Public Service Announcements used to advertise Healing Mass on Immaculate Heart Radio.

Sunday Morning TV Mass used to advertise Healing Mass.

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)

The Safe Environment Training Office met with St. Vincent de Paul Human Resource Director for Arizona and provided them with training materials for their employees.

The Safe Environment Training Office attended Phoenix Central Valley Interagency Council roundtable meetings with Child Abuse Prevention advocates/experts.

Hosted the GPCAPC Conference and Awards Luncheon. Keynote: Judd Hafer: "The Love and Logic Approach: Building Relationships and Preventing Abuse"

Paul Pfaffenberger, Director-Office of Child and Youth Protection was interviewed for The Bishop's Hour radio show on July 11, 2011.

Melanie Takinen Director-Safe Environment Training Office was interviewed for The Bishop's Hour radio show on September 12, 2011.

Melanie Takinen Director-Safe Environment Training Office was featured in the Diocese of Phoenix "Catholic Sun" newspaper on September 12, 2011.

Paul Pfaffenberger, Director-Office of Child and Youth Protection was interviewed for The Catholic's Matter Television show that aired on June 17, 2012.

Seminar's/OnGoing Education:

8/24/11 - Antibullying Webinar. Title: Bullying Intervention: What Works // Host: Michelle Duhart-Tonge

8/31/11 - "Silent Injuries" Training – Mesa Public Safety Training Facility - Trainer Robert Emerick, Med

10/6/11 - Building Strong Families National Seminars: "Standing Up To Bullying" Conference - School Bullying and Violence Prevention Conference

10/10/11 - Attended Educator's Day for Diocese of Phoenix. Topic was Bullying: "It's not just joking around" presented by Jodee Blanco.

10/13/11 - Creating Safe Churches and Schools" – Presenter: Rachel Mitchell, Chief of Sex Crimes Division, Maricopa County Attorney's Office. – Diocese of Phoenix recognized at this conference as a good resource for training materials and development of a good policy.

11/28/11 – Raising Pure Teens by Jason Evert @ Xavier College Preparatory.

2/6/12 – Crisis Management in a School Setting with Cheri Lovre, M.S. from the Crisis Management Institute.

2/22/12 – Healing Neen Documentary and Discussion

4/16-20/12 – 18th National Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect, Hosted by the Children's Bureau in Washington, DC.

Six week (8/11 – 9/15/11) Sex Offender Chaperone Training focused on the offender cycle. Syllabus included the following: Offense Cycle and Healthy Alternatives, Pre-treatment assessment process, general goals of offender treatment, expectation of offenders during treatment, support person's role in assisting offender through therapy, empathy and emotional restitution, team approach – probation team, victimology, moving forward, hope for our children.

Revised the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Minors.

Eparchy of Phoenix, Arizona

BACKGROUND CHECKS UPDATED

One of the major recommendations from the audit team in November, 2011, was "The Eparchy should consider a policy change that would require periodic background checks after a specified period of time elapses, for example, every 3 or 5 years." Every clergy, religious and volunteer serving in the Eparchy whose initial background check was processed prior to July 1, 2007,

submitted consent forms to obtain an updated background check. The policy has now been updated that background checks will be processed every 5 years.

ANNUAL CLERGY CONFERENCE DAYS

Because Social Networking and Digital Communications has been a challenging area of concern of our clergy and parents, during the Clergy Days held in Phoenix, specifically on June 12, 2012, Mr. Patrick Cullen, FBI and Review Board Member presented an in depth conference on this topic. The major areas that were addressed and discussed include:

- Websites, pros, cons and challenges
- Social Networking, pros, cons and challenges
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Bullying
- Sexting
- Resources for monitoring and prevention
- Resources for monitoring and prevention useful specifically for parents
- Resources for monitoring and prevention useful specifically for Parish families
- Review of our Eparchial Guidelines addressing Digital Networking

Diocese of Pittsburgh, PA

Per discussion with Fr. Larry, the only additional action item the Diocese implemented was mandating that all members of the Bishop's pastoral staff (Chancery personnel) be required to obtain background checks and fulfilling all the requirements for safe environment, even though they do not have contact with children. This was to symbolize that safe environment is the highest priority in the Diocese.

Diocese of Portland, ME

1. With the retirement of a number of Virtus Facilitators to conduct Protecting God's Children training classes, several classes were set up to train their replacements. 16 new Facilitators were added to ensure trainers were available to provide training as needed.
2. All Chancery personnel and all Priests and Deacons were given Virtus retraining in the past year.
3. Funds were allocated to the Faith Formation Department and Catholic Schools to purchase updated Think First/Stay Safe training materials in order to keep the curriculum fresh for the coming school year. In addition a new program for Youth Ministry (Teen Lures Newscast) was added.
4. The Victims Assistance Coordinator and the Safe Environment Coordinator both attended the Audit Workshop in Boston on March 29th.
5. A presentation was made to the Diocesan Review Board on Safe Environment procedures and Virtus training was given last February 27th

Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon

The 2011 CARA Report was completed and submitted by Rhonda Kwei.

Cathy Shannon, Director of Child Protection worked with the Diocese of Baker in training their clergy, directors of religious education, youth ministry, principals and teachers to use the Called to Protect programs for parent, children and youth in their parishes and schools. Cathy also shared several of the material the Archdiocese has developed to assist in this training. She continues to be a resource for those who are be responsible for the training and record keeping.

We continue to work with members of local law enforcement to provide information about parish and school procedures and request their assistance in concerns of sex offenders living near our schools and parishes, additional training and in areas where we had needed additional investigation or advise on criminal concerns involving children.

Diocese of Rapid City

Implemented a process for repeating background checks every five years on all employees and volunteers in the diocese.

Provided monetary and pastoral support to an alleged victim who was paroled from a long incarceration in another state. He is now gainfully employed in that state and the diocese stays in contact with him as he adjusts to life as a free man.

Provides monetary and pastoral support to an alleged victim who has multiple mental problems not associated with the alleged abuse.

Diocese of Reno, Nevada

Once again this year, we provided Bulletin Announcements to the parishes of the Diocese for use especially during the Month of April for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Most of the parishes used these announcements and some of the schools used them in their communications with parents.

We have continued to use radio station announcements about the importance of child abuse prevention during Christmas vacation, the month of April and during the summer.

We have purchased material related to bullying, and internet safety that is available to the schools and parishes for their use and have encouraged our school personnel and religious education teachers to review this material for their own benefit.

Diocese of Richmond, Virginia

Beginning at the end of the last audit period and during this current audit period, the diocese restructured the safe environment functions in order to better serve the Safe Environment Program. Victim assistance is now handled by a Victim Assistance Case Manager. The case manager manages the Victim Assistance 24 Hour Reporting Number, outreach and support for victims of abuse, serves as a liaison for Diocesan Review Board and collaborates with the Director of Safe Environment.

Additionally, during this period, the Diocese website has been enhanced. Some of the modifications include renaming the safe environment section to Child Protection. This has created ease in locating information pertinent to child protection. Additionally a reporting feature was added for victims of abuse to confidentially email the Victim Assistance Case Manager.

The Diocese purchased the *Protecting All Children* safe environment program and has offered this training to community organizations to include a local county library. Additionally, at the request of the Archdiocese of the Military, the diocese has trained additional facilitators for the *Protecting God's Children for Adults* program in order to provide training at military installations located in the diocese.

Diocese of Rockville Centre

In April 2012, the Diocese of Rockville Centre introduced the *Critical Conversations* program developed by the Archdiocese of Chicago, Saint John Vianney Center in PA and Virtus Program to selected leadership staff. This program is meant to help clergy and lay ministers engage in a dialogue regarding important personal and pastoral realities. The program is meant to foster skills needed to confront issues proactively in discussion.

Virtus Facilitators met regionally to discuss lessons learned from the sessions held during the years. The Diocese of Rockville Centre has approximately 306 *Virtus* facilitators who have worked conscientiously to 1) create safe environments in parishes, schools and agencies and, 2) provide a vehicle for staff and volunteers to discuss their reactions to the incidents in the diocese.

The Diocesan Child Protection Policy booklet was revised in May 2012. Please go to www.drvc.org.

Diocese of Sacramento, California

Presented the "How to Teach VIRTUS" training for catechists and teachers in the Diocese of Sacramento at our annual Catechist's Ministry Day. The training sessions were conducted in English and in Spanish.

Began monthly visits to parishes and schools to increase communication and aid locations that need assistance implementing safe environment programs.

Presented a safe environment procedures training at the annual new principals meeting.

Participated in a two day training on internet pornography "*Walking into the Light: Realities of Internet*". Those in attendance were the Chancellor, Vicar for Priests, Vicar General, Seminarian Coordinator, and the Canon Lawyer.

Developed and distributed informational postcards to encourage communication between parents and children regarding safe environment. These were done in both English and Spanish.

Developed a comprehensive packet of information and activities for Child Abuse Prevention Month. This included:

Articles in the Catholic Herald
Bulletin Announcements
Radio interviews on Catholic Radio in both English and Spanish
Prayer and informational cards in English and Spanish
Poster Contest

Offered on-site Shield the Vulnerable trainings in Spanish

Partnered with Directors of Evangelization and Catechesis in regional deanery meetings to speak with Directors of Religious Education about safe environment procedures and training. This was done in both English and Spanish.

Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan

In October, 2011 the Bay Area Catholic Schools had a program entitled: “Protecting Children from Internet Predators”. The program was sponsored by the Michigan Attorney General’s Office which developed the Michigan Cyber Safety Initiative (CSI). The Bay Area Catholic Schools gathered at St. James Catholic School and the children were presented with information that helped them to be more aware of what is on the internet and how to travel the internet safely. There were three presentations for three different age groups: K-3, 4-5, and 6-8. The students were very lively and participative in responding to the presenter. The teachers were learning along with the students. The presenter emphasized having the students think about the “trusted adults” in their lives. The students were also encouraged to pay attention to when they felt “uncomfortable” and to then “tell” and “keep telling” until someone listened.

The state of Michigan offered this as a free program to the students and it was appreciated by the students, teachers, and parents who were able to attend. The Bay Area Catholic Schools participated in the offerings available free through the state and it was well worth the time and effort in gathering the students together from the area schools.

Several educators from the Diocese of Saginaw were able to attend a program entitled: “Emerging Trends in Technology: Sexting” as part of the Michigan Victim Assistance Academy Advance Training. It was available through Michigan State University – School of Criminal Justice. The presenting members of the Michigan State Police addressed issues that impact the teen-age population and the ever changing technology. The explosion of technology is “causing profound changes in the foundation of homes, schools and work.” The workshop was designed to provide information and resources to school personnel and others so that they better understand the issues related to sexting and can help educate and assist today’s young people.

Issues addressed included: Emerging Trends in Technology and Its Impact on Youth Victims; Trends in Bullying, Cyberbullying, and Stalking / Case Studies in Sexting; Legal Updates Related to Technology and Sexting; and Emotional and Psychological Impacts on Victims of Sexting.

The educators were able to bring this information back to their religious education and youth ministry colleagues so that more teachers were able to begin to understand the complexity of this

technology and have some additional understanding of how to be present to young people who have this in their everyday world. The program also provided resources for additional assistance.

Diocese of San Angelo, Texas

Victims/survivors are encouraged to come forward through periodic announcements 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. Periodic checks are made to be sure the VA materials are current.

Contact information for the Victim Assistance Coordinator is published on the Diocesan Web Page, the *West Texas Angelus*, and on the displays and brochures in the back of the churches.

During the audit period, approximately half of the parishes in the Diocese were chosen at random for 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 Safe Environment Audit process that was begun by the Diocese 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 at the parish. Although a few 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 USCCB Charter.

The Diocese has implemented a Parish Mentoring Program for new international priests. A parish with a new international priest organizes a mentoring team composed of appropriate parish members to assist the priest with all areas of inculturization into U.S. parish life; parish administration, Liturgy and Sacraments, learning to drive, accent modification, cultural norms and expectations, using the banking system and credit cards, ordering in restaurants, etc. It is anticipated that this program, which is monitored by the Bishop, Vicar General, and Chancellor will facilitate inculturization of our international priests and minimize problems we have experience in the pasts as the international priests try to adapt to the culture in the United States.

The Diocese is currently exploring the feasibility of offering our Ethics and Integrity Course on-line via the Internet and hopes to accomplish this during the coming audit period.

Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas

The Office of Victim Assistance & Safe Environment provided training to daycare facilities outside of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The directors of these facilities heard of our program and wanted us to educate their staff. The daycare facilities included two Lutheran organizations and a Head Start Program. All three daycares want us to return every year.

St. Mary's University requested training for their students who were participating in spring break missionary work in the Appalachian Mountains. The students were going to be working with families, so administration wanted them to be educated on the signs and symptoms of abuse.

The Office of Victim Assistance & Safe Environment is certified by the Texas Department of Health to provide training to summer camp employees. In April, May, and June of this year, training was given to various other religious institutions, and several secular colleges and universities who provide summer camps for children.

Steve Martinez, the director of the Office of Victim Assistance & Safe Environment, writes an article for the Archdiocesan newspaper and hosts a television program for the Archdiocesan television network that discusses child abuse issues within the community.

The Archdiocese of San Antonio is a member of the Texas Primary Prevention Planning Committee. The committee was developed in order to assist Governor Perry on aspects of abuse prevention within the state. The Archdiocese of San Antonio represents the religious community within the committee.

Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico

Throughout the audit period I have worked closely with Children, Youth, and Families Department to update information on our child abuse awareness power point presentation that is shown at the Abuse Awareness Trainings. I have attended many meetings and workshops to share knowledge and assist in developing training on Forensic Interviewing of Sexually Abused Children.

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month and I write an article for the People of God every year to let our parishioners know what the Archdiocese is doing to help keep them and their children safe and how we are always striving to make improvements.

Diocese of San Bernardino, California

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.

Restoring-Me Workshop

This bilingual program is offered monthly. It provides a safe and confidential setting where adult victims and/or survivors of abuse or violence can share their experiences, look for solutions, and, if needed, make use of the referral material 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.
The Riverside Viacriate

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.

Archdiocese of San Francisco, California

Archbishop Niederauer, Auxiliary Bishops Justice and McElroy, and our former Victims Assistance Coordinator, Barbara Elordi, met with a six (6) survivors ad hoc committee to “flesh out” proposals that the entire group put forth to the bishops during the prior audit period. While the process was delayed by the untimely death of Barbara Elordi, implementation began during this audit period. The proposals seek to provide transparency in the creation of expectations and the meeting of those expectations, and to center on an over-arching system of wellness that includes basic therapy as before, but that has been expanded to include alternative therapies as well.

We added a survivor of clergy sexual abuse to the membership of our Independent Review Board.

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 third 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. This is an annual ad done in conjunction with April – Prevent Child Abuse Month.

In conjunction with our Department of Catholic Schools and the help of seven schools, we paid for and conducted a semester long test of a faith-based bullying program entitled, “Peace be with You”. The test was conducted in two classrooms in each of seven schools. Teachers like the program despite its expense. Our recommendation is to allow individual schools to use, or not use, as they will, depending on their specific situation, as our array of on-line courses for students includes bullying and cyber-safety instruction.

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 third 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. Art Winners were printed in the four page ad in our Archdiocesan newspaper.

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 completed the development of 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 location and 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 this new system prior to the end of the 2011 audit period, and used throughout the 2012 audit period.

Two staff members attended the Safe Environment Coordinators annual meeting in Burlington, Vermont in May of 2011, and two attended in Omaha, Nebraska in August of 2012. (*There was no conference during the 2012 Audit period.*) We will host the 2013 conference.

Diocese of Savannah, Georgia

Trained 25 new facilitators to present the VIRTUS awareness sessions: eight of whom are from rural deaneries; five from the most geographically distant deanery; five facilitators from predominantly African-American parishes; two bi-lingual facilitators.

Made a concerted effort through direct contact with facilitators, pastors, principals, and entity points of contact to increase the number of training sessions/attendees. This resulted in 121 sessions being conducted (highest yearly total to date), and over 1900 individuals trained (2nd highest yearly number to date). Percentage of attendees registering their attendance on line also hit an all-time high at over 93%.

Continued to update the office website to make it more helpful and user friendly.

Continued to augment local area facilitators presenting training sessions in distant locations to “show the flag” from our diocesan office, e.g. Thomasville, 230 miles away.

Made formal presentation on the diocesan safe environment program at the new principals/new teachers orientation conducted by the Catholic Schools Office.

Served as panelist on Horizon Savannah gathering of non-profits in the coastal Georgia area on their Lunch & Learn topic of “On Your Watch: A Discussion About Youth Serving Organizations and Child Safety”.

Obtained budgetary approval to accommodate both recurring on-site audits at distant deanery entities, and commence annual vs. bi-annual facilitator training sessions.

Trained and facilitated the establishment of a viable VIRTUS program in the Diocese of Mandeville (Jamaica).

Continuing Education:

Published an information announcement regarding safe environment topics in every issue of the monthly diocesan pastoral bulletin.

Office Director and/or Safe Environment Coordinator attended the following conferences, seminars, meetings: National Safe Environment & Victim Assistance Coordinators Leadership Conference; Annual VIRTUS Conference; Chatham County (GA) District Attorney's 2011 Faith Leaders Seminar; Horizon Savannah's Luncheon for Savannah area Youth Serving Organizations on Child Safety; Coastal Children's Advocacy Center's seminar on Child Protection; Rape Crisis Center of the Coastal Empire's seminar on "Preventing Sexual Abuse of Youth".

Explored the possibility of initiating Facebook/Twitter media vehicles to enhance office contact with diocesan faithful.

Archdiocese of Seattle, Washington

Pacific Northwest SEC Conference Call – ongoing

Created a semi-monthly conference call for the Safe Environment Coordinators in the Pacific Northwest area (Region XII).

Initiated July 2011.

Hosted and administered by the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Developed and Implemented Webinar for Safe Environment Coordinators in all parishes and schools – ongoing

One-hour webinar designed for new and existing Safe Environment Coordinators in all parishes and schools; held quarterly.

Provided an opportunity to review Safe Environment requirements as outlined in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and current archdiocesan policy; verification requirements and administration of the program.

Full Translation of SEP Website into Spanish – ongoing

Translated, created and published a second version of SEP Website in Spanish.

Translation of *Called to Protect* videos into Korean for future production – ongoing

Commissioned translation of script for *Called to Protect* videos to be translated into Korean.

Video will have a voice-over of Korean script.

Due to time period needed to identify translator and time needed for translation project, videos not produced during current audit period but expected to be completed in 2012.

Launch of Vulnerable Adult Portion of Safe Environment Program – ongoing

October Vulnerable Adult Month - Banner designed and posted on home page of Archdiocese of Seattle which linked back to special pages in the Safe Environment Program website.

Research and begin production on Vulnerable Adult Abuse Prevention Video – (*production delayed until October 2012*)

Designed Vulnerable Adult Resource Brochures for Archdiocese of Seattle

Designed Vulnerable Adult Outreach Cards to be distributed to homebound by volunteers.

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 elder and vulnerable adults”.

The Archdiocese of Seattle researched and designed a Vulnerable Adult Resource Brochure which will be distributed throughout the State of Washington by organizations represented on the King County Elder Abuse Council.

Social Media and Safe Environment - ongoing

Researched, wrote and implemented archdiocesan policies regarding the use of Social Media in parishes, schools and programs.

Developed training regarding the use of Social Media in archdiocesan parishes, schools and programs; SEC facilitates training with team.

Special emphasis in policies and training regarding Social Media and Minors.

Collaboration with Childhaven: Professional Development for *Called to Protect Trainers* – ongoing

Collaborated with Childhaven to initiate an annual training for Childhaven staff and *Called to Protect* trainers.

2011-2012 event postponed due to staff transition at Childhaven. Rescheduled for Fall 2012. Will be an annual event.

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center Interfaith Group – ongoing

The Interfaith Group serves as a resource for leadership of all denominations in King County area.

Monthly meetings include guest speakers/presentations, case studies of issues occurring in faith communities and planning of annual Interfaith Symposium.

SEC is a member of the Interfaith Group and sits on the Core Leadership Team.

Washington State’s 8th Annual Vulnerable Adult Abuse Conference – October 2011

“Working Together for Justice” - Safe Environment Program Coordinator attended conference in order to integrate additional material about Vulnerable Adult Abuse into Safe Environment trainings.

Sponsored 10th Annual Interfaith Symposium for Safe and Responsible Ministry – January 2012

“Bridging the Gap: Creating Effective Partnerships to Reduce Sexual Victimization” - A hands-on community symposium confronting & preventing sexual violence in the faith community
SEC sat on “expert panel” and presented.

Co-hosted with King County Sexual Assault Resource Center.

Child Abuse Prevention Month – April 2012

NEW: Designed, printed and Distributed Safe Environment Posters to be displayed in every parish, school and program in the Archdiocese of Seattle. Included information about SEP Program, a QR Code with a direct link to the website and the Abuse Hotline number.

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.

NEW: All Child Abuse Prevention Month Resources translated into Spanish

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.

Leverage Points: Connecting Families with Communities – June 2012

Attended conference hosted by Children’s Trust Foundation on ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Research and Practices.

SEC was invited by Director of Children’s Trust to collaborate with Children’s Trust Foundation to develop resources on abuse prevention for faith communities.

Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania

Three Catholic Colleges, Marywood University, King’s College and Misericordia University and one public college, Keystone College have all made the Safe Environment training part of the required curriculum for all Education majors. The students are required to take the Protecting God’s Children training before they participate in their student teaching assignments.

Diocese of Shreveport, Louisiana

Our goal is to train all employees of the diocese in safe environment. Even though there are a couple of people who are not trained as of date, usually due to being new employees, has been successful and now is the norm and is expected in all parishes.

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.

We have started doing monthly articles in our diocesan publication “Catholic Connection”. They are small and informative on topics like:

Reasons for additional education

Reviewing the “Five steps” and

An interview with the VAC

This helps go beyond the required minimum postings and also helps reach many who might not be required to be trained and encourage them to do so.

Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa

All of the data that had previously been kept in the Excel spreadsheet was uploaded into the Virtus Data Management System. In addition, the background check authorization form and the Code of Conduct form were integrated into the Virtus registration process for the diocese, so that when new employees and volunteers complete registration for a Virtus training class (as is required by the diocese) they also complete and sign their background check authorizations and Code of Conduct acknowledgements online, and those dates of completion automatically populate their Virtus profiles. Pastors and administrators were asked to appoint a “Virtus Coordinator” for their parish and school, and these Coordinators were trained to manage the Virtus files for their own location, and to run the audit reports that would show that location’s status of audit compliance.

By running the compliance reports quarterly throughout the year, each pastor or administrator will be able to see the compliance status of their parish or school, and will be able to ensure that every employee and volunteer has been trained and has cleared the background check. In turn, the Bishop, the Vicar General, and the Diocesan Review Board will be able to see a clear picture of the entire diocese in terms of training, background checks, and Code acknowledgements. The new system has been enthusiastically received thus far, although the diocese is currently working through some expected challenges in training Virtus Coordinators to run the new software, as well as assisting volunteers and new employees with the electronic forms.

This entire process took place over the past 8 months, from January through August, 2012, and there are still several parishes whose reports are incomplete, but overall, this year’s audit is a truer reflection of the compliance status of the diocese, and the new system will enable us to act swiftly to correct deficiencies and ensure that every employee and volunteer is properly vetted and trained.

Diocese of Spokane, Washington

The Diocesan policy defines a Code of Conduct for priests, personnel and volunteers exceeds the “charter” standards. Specifically reporting of behavior that is deemed “inappropriate” or a boundary issues in the code but is not abuse, whether the behavior is directed at minors or adults, is encouraged. This serves to give the Diocese the opportunity to act before abuse occurs, provide additional training and preventative support/counseling to priests or personnel if it is appropriate.

St. Joseph’s parish offers weekly Adoration in the Eucharist Chapel for victims and abusers.

St. Aloysuis parish several times a year presents a petition for the victims of abuse (physical, sexual and emotional) in our own community and throughout the world.

St. Aloysuis, during the month of April for Child Abuse prevention month, purchases and/or downloads materials for display in the church information racks. The information includes resources for reporting abuse (in addition to the diocesan brochure) and for receiving help in abusive situations. The parish also puts informational posters with small tear-off cards, in church restrooms, giving phone numbers of local resources for help in abuse and domestic violence situations.

In the near future Bishop Cupich is planning to announce new initiatives to promote healing in our Church.

Diocese of St. Cloud, Minnesota

In response to credible allegations against a former transitional deacon, voluntarily laicized in 1972, two listening sessions were held in December, 2011, at the parish where the deacon had served from 9/69-2/70. In preparation for these listening sessions, extensive consultation was sought with Dr. Will Marling, Executive Director of National Organization for Victim Assistance based in Alexandria, Virginia. In accordance with the St. Cloud Diocesan Review Board's *Guidelines for Conducting Listening Sessions*, a sexual assault advocate from *Central MN Sexual Assault Center* joined the Diocesan Response Team at the first listening session and Bishop John Kinney led the follow-up session.

Approximately 30-35 individuals were present at each session, including several self-identified victim/survivors and family members. While some community members expressed appreciation for the format, victim/survivors and some family members were upset at the break-out component of the first listening session. The second session, held two weeks later, allowed for dialogue with the Bishop. Following the sessions, two victim/survivors sought and received financial assistance for in-patient treatment and a third victim/survivor settled a civil lawsuit. Although there was extensive media coverage of the allegations and listening sessions, there have not been any additional allegations that have come forward either during or following the Diocesan outreach efforts.

After receiving a second credible allegation against a deceased priest, a listening session was held in January, 2012, at each of the three parishes where the priest had been assigned as pastor in accordance with the Diocesan Review Board's *Guidelines for Conducting Listening Sessions*. In addition to a sexual assault advocate from *Someplace Safe*, the victim/survivor and his wife joined the Diocesan Response Team at the first two parishes. The victim/survivor expressed willingness to share his story as a visible way of supporting the initial victim who had come forward the previous year and also stated he wanted to support the St. Cloud Diocese. Precautions were taken to assess his well-being and to ensure his emotional safety and healing. There were two individuals present at the first two parishes, in addition to the current pastor; no one attended the third listening session. While it was difficult for the parishioners to hear of the abuse, the victim/survivor helped lend credibility to both his own allegation and the one raised the previous year. Follow up was done with both the attendees and the victim/survivor.

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, especially the Roman Catholic Dioceses in the areas where our parishes and mission are.

Archdiocese of St. Paul – Minneapolis, Minnesota

SAFE ENVIRONMENT CURRICULUM ALIGNMENTS

In December of 2011, the Very Reverend Peter A. Laird, Vicar General-Moderator of the Curia, approved a revised introduction to *Safe Environment Curriculum Alignments with Roman Catholic Theological & Catechetical Guidelines*, originally promulgated by Most Reverend John C. Nienstedt in 2008. In moving forward from compliance to commitment, the alignments are instrumental in helping our leaders, teachers and catechists understand how to integrate the safety messages into their religious education instruction.

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* (2011); and *Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living: Guidelines for Curriculum Design and Publication* (USCCB, 2008).

NEW SAFE ENVIRONMENT LESSON PLAN TEMPLATE

In September of 2011, archdiocesan safe environment staff created and began encouraging the use of a new lesson plan template. This is specifically designed for the intentional integration of personal safety instruction into religious education themes. The format reminds catechists and classroom teachers to incorporate prayer and Christian context into personal safety instruction. All future additions and changes to approved curriculum choices will include the use of this template. This template is available on the Archdiocese's website.

PARENT GUIDES

The Archdiocese continues to send 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. Parents and church leaders alike have shared their appreciation for receiving this helpful guide.

COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The Curriculum and Leadership Liaison is in regular contact with both the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's ICAC Training and Education Coordinator and the Outreach Coordinator and Educational Writer for NetSmartz Workshop with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. She is also a member of the National Council for NetSmartz Workshop.

Both professional staff persons in the PCYI office have attended seminars sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Health and Human Services during the current program year.

The Archbishop's Delegate for Safe Environment and the archdiocesan Director of Advocacy, are members of the group Minnesota Council of Churches, Ending Sexual Misconduct in the Religious Community.

ECUMENICAL COOPERATION

Several parishes within the Archdiocese continue to offer VIRTUS training to members of other faith communities that collaborate in joint Vacation Bible School, youth ministry programs and community service endeavors.

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

Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida

After receiving the letter from Stonebridge Business Partners, dated November 2, 2011, stating that the Diocese of St. Petersburg was in compliance with the norms of the Charter for the 2010-2011 audit year, the letter was included on our diocesan website and remains as a link on our Safe Environment Office webpage.

Included also on the Safe Environment webpage is a link to an informational article in *Commonweal* magazine, explaining the abuse scandal and court processes which took place in Philadelphia.

The availability of fingerprinting/background screening sites has increased, in addition to the number of persons available to assist with screening. One of the new sites is our diocesan retreat center, where most of our diocesan meetings and social functions are held. This site was chosen because of its central location and the frequency with which it is used.

Our diocesan Vocations and Permanent Diaconate offices have begun implementing large-group Safe Environment Program training sessions for those new seminarians and deacon aspirants, prior to the beginning of their formation periods. Previously, this was not immediately done with all new seminarians and aspirants, but only when they engaged in ministry with minors in one of our diocesan entities.

In February 2012, a series of suggested bulletin announcements were made available to all parishes, as recommended by the USCCB Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection. The announcements were included as a link in our electronically-distributed Pastoral Bulletin, which is also archived on our diocesan website.

Following the September 2011 audit and subsequent recommendations, posters from the USCCB Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection were distributed to all parishes and Catholic schools within the diocese. The posters included contact information for our diocesan Safe Environment Office and Victim's Assistance Minister.

News concerning Safe Environment Program training is included on our diocesan "Priest-Only Website," and includes information on upcoming training dates and fingerprinting/background screening opportunities. In addition, the Chancellor's Office maintains telephone contact with all priests, reminding them of upcoming deadlines for 5-year recertification trainings and re-

screenings. Recertification is still available in both live and online formats. Initial certification is only available via live training sessions.

The Diocesan Review Board studied the document entitled “Practical Standards of Professional Responsibility for Priests Serving in the Diocese of St. Petersburg”, which was originally published in March 1999 and revised in January 2004. The Board suggested additional changes to the document during the audit year. Suggestions are awaiting approval and should be ready for publication during the 2012-2013 audit year.

Annual meetings between the diocesan bishop and representatives of religious orders living within the diocese include the presentation of the compliance letter from the most recent audit period, along with diocesan policies concerning Safe Environment issues.

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.

The “Code of Conduct and Procedures Concerning the Protection of Minors” was completed and distributed to all Schools, Parishes, Religious Orders and Catholic Institutions. The signed forms of individuals acknowledged receipt of Code of Conduct, are filed in the Chancery.

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

There was one thing that our Office of Safety Environment provided this year for the first time. We participated in April Child Sexual Abuse Month by compiling a four page informational pamphlet for April Child Abuse Prevention Month. It was sent out to all of our parishes and requested to be inserted in their April Parish Newsletters. The main focus of the prevention material was on internet safety.

Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio

The Diocese of Steubenville provides annual workshops for all those who minister to children and young people in schools and parishes. Four workshops occurred during the current audit period in September 2011. The purpose of these workshops is to refresh the participants in the importance of child protection and also to answer questions which may have arisen during the year prior to the workshop. All the workshops were well received.

Diocese of Tucson, Arizona

the Diocese has continued to reach out to the Southern Arizona Children’s Advocacy Center to support its mission. The Director of the Office of Child, Adolescent and Adult Protection serves on its Advisory Board.

The Diocese is also collaborating with the Pima County Sheriff’s Office with the goal of producing an educational video to enhance recognition of child abusers that will benefit not only the people of the Diocese of Tucson but other entities in the community as well.

The Safe Environment Program of the Diocese of Tucson is written and implemented to define all personnel as mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse and to encourage Safe Environment Program education even for volunteers and employees that do not have independent access to minors because they are, by virtue of their greater involvement with the Church, more likely to see or hear of issues that may indicate a threat to minors. In the current audit year, 3,427 additional volunteers without independent access to minors in their ministry were educated and 12,588 other persons, including parents, in the parish and school communities were given education.

The Safe Environment Program is also written and implemented to encourage sensitivity to potential abuse, exploitation or neglect of adults, including elders. The Diocese collaborates with Stop Abuse and Financial Exploitation of the Elder (SAFE), a task force sponsored by the State Attorney General's Office.

Diocese of Victoria, Texas

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IN THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA

The Diocese of Victoria and its parishes, in conjunction with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, have joined the "Take 25" child safety training campaign.

"Take 25" is designed to raise awareness of the issues surrounding missing and exploited children, and encourages parents, guardians, educators, and others to *take 25 minutes* to speak with children about safety. With a focus on prevention, "Take 25" provides communities with free safety resources including safety tips, conversation starters, and engaging activities, such as Child ID Finger-printing. "Take 25" offers resources for 25 ways to make kids safer: at Home; on the Internet; and at School. Emphasis is placed on Child Victimization, Online Harassment, and Exposure to inappropriate content.

Annually, an estimated 9,000-10,000 children and youth in our Religious Education Programs and Catholic Schools are educated on personal safety. In addition to the annual training, the following parishes have chosen to expand their efforts by offering the "Take 25" education and training to their Vacation Bible School participants. Thus far, the participating parishes in our diocese include: St. Philip the Apostle-El Campo; St. Robert Bellarmine-El Campo; St. Patrick-Bloomington; Holy Cross-East Bernard; St. John Nepomucene-New Taiton; Queen of the Holy Rosary-Hostyn; St. John the Baptist-Moravia; St. Mary-Victoria; Parish of the Nativity-Eagle Lake; Holy Cross-Bay City; St. Peter-Blessing; St. Joseph-Inez; St. Patrick-Seadrift; St. Joseph-Yoakum; Our Lady of the Gulf-Port Lavaca; Holy Cross-Yorktown; and Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus-Victoria. Together, these parishes will present the "Take 25" safety training to an estimated 1700 children.

"Take 25" takes into consideration that childhood is full of rewards and potential risks. Fortunately, potential risks that children face throughout their lives can be lessened when parents and guardians teach safety concepts. While it may not be possible for parents and guardians to be with their children every minute of the day, they can *take 25 minutes* talking to them, setting appropriate limits, and helping them make good choices. Just minutes of prevention can make a huge impact in the life of a child.

Diocese of Venice, Florida

Every year during Month of April, two Masses are held for all victims of abuse.

The diocese sends bulletin announcements to parishes regarding abuse awareness on a regular basis.

Instituted and implemented International Priest Training for new international priests using the Virtus program.

Developed posters detailing safe environment reporting procedures in English and Spanish for all parishes and schools in the diocese; 6 posters were sent to every parish and school.

Developed and instituted a form to accompany policy for Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound; all Pastors/Administrators were required to sign a statement and submit the document to the Diocese that they understood the policy and were in compliance.

Implemented new policy for Eucharistic Ministers who go to nursing homes, hospitals or assisted living facilities to be fingerprinted and safe environment trained. This was felt to be more in keeping with the spirit of the Charter even though these individuals are not alone with vulnerable adults.

Followed up on a monthly basis with parishes (using the Diocesan Communications newsletter *The Mustard Seed*) with announcements and training dates for Safe Environment.

Changed the opt-out policy for safe environment training for children (opt-outs now need a reason to do so); increased number of children trained by almost 2,000; Opt-out form states that lack of submission of an opt-out form implies permission and students will be trained at a later date.

Diocese of Military Services- WDC

Clergy of the Archdiocese underwent additional training at the Annual Convocation of priests and the VA Chaplains Convocation. The training was provided by the USCCB and discussed boundary issues.

The Bishops of the Archdiocese, during pastoral visits, speak with the command of every installation and one of the topics of discussion is need for child and youth protection, especially in the religious education programs. They discuss what is being done at each installation

Diocese of Wichita, Kansas

A newly formed group of diocesan directors now meet regularly to review compliance issues as a part of the Charter implementation. These directors represent diocesan offices that specifically minister to children and young people, (e.g. Office of Faith Formation, Catholic Schools Office, Office of Human Resources, the Bishop's Office, representation from the Diocesan Review Board, etc.). In the first six months of 2012, the group has reviewed and updated the responsibilities of the Parish Safe Environment Coordinator; updated the lists of Parish Safe Environment Coordinators throughout the diocese; prepared a calendar of events of reporting deadlines for Charter Compliance; participated in the Audit Workshop Webinar on May 10, 2012, sponsored by the USCCB and Stonebridge Business Partners. The Diocese of Wichita is scheduled for an on-site audit in 2013. This collaborative effort of diocesan offices to increase our awareness of what each office does in implementing the Charter has strengthened our resolve to protect our children and young people.

Every year, the Ongoing Formation for the Clergy Committee sends out a report to all of the priests in the diocese, asking them to list the ongoing formation workshops that they attended in the year, (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012). This report also asks the priests to identify the date and place of their annual canonical retreat. This past year, (for the first time on this report), the priests were also asked to verify that they were current on their on-line VIRTUS bulletins.

Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware

As part of the settlement of our Bankruptcy the Diocese has undertaken a number of *Non-Monetary Undertakings* which can indeed be classified as *Additional Actions for the Protection of Children*. Among those undertakings are the following:

We have instituted a policy requiring that the Bishop and all Ecclesiastical Officers and Department Heads will certify and affirm in writing that they have no undisclosed knowledge of priests or lay employees regarding whom there had been admitted, corroborated, or otherwise substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of minors each year. In connection with the annual certification the Bishop will write to all priests and religious employees in active ministry and instruct them to inform him about any priest, religious, or lay employee regarding whom there are such allegations.

We prominently display a plaque in each diocesan or parish school which states “The abuse of spiritual, emotional, physical, or moral well being of the children and young men and women of this particular school shall not be tolerated.”

In the education of seminarians about childhood sexual abuse, its prevention, detection, and reporting we ask survivor advocates and third party protection professionals to provide seminars to seminarians. This occurs annually.

We retained a third party expert in the field of child protection to review and make recommendations with regard to regular seminary training programs and evaluating and making public recommendations with respect to our child protection programs.

Not less than every 5 years the Diocese will retain a child protection consultant or third party expert to reevaluate and make recommendations with respect to the programs and procedures designed to train priests, seminarians, deacons, and lay people about childhood sexual abuse prevention, etc.

Diocese of Winona, Minnesota

Upon discovering that a man who had been removed from active priestly ministry for accusations of sexual misconduct had moved back into the Diocese, a statement was sent to all the schools and parishes in the new town of residence in order to inform them of his presence. It has been requested that this man not enter onto the premises of any parishes or schools within the Diocese of Winona.

Rosary booklets were distributed to the members of the Diocesan Review Board and the members spend a half hour in prayer before each meeting in front of the Blessed Sacrament in

order to pray for the continued safety of all children and young people in the Diocese and for the victims who have been abused.

Diocese of Worcester, Massachusetts

Our diocese produces a monthly cable TV/streaming internet program called “A Conversation with Bishop McManus.” In June 2012 it focused on highlighting the issue in general of child protection as well as a discussion of the church’s response with the chairperson of the Diocesan Review Committee. 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.

The New England Victims Assistance Coordinators and other staff from their dioceses are hosted at the Worcester Chancery 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, 4,475 parents completed the program, an increase of 43% over the prior audit year.

Diocese of Yakima, Washington

Per Fr. Robert, the Diocesan newsletter, the Central Washington Catholic, featured articles on Safe Environment. The first was an article on Internet Safety and the second was an article by Deacon Bernie Nojadera regarding the 10th anniversary of the Charter.

Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio

1. A new brochure, “Reporting Child Abuse in the Diocese of Youngstown and the State of Ohio,” was created to further explain reporting requirements and procedures. The brochure was sent in bulk quantities to parishes to make available in the gathering space or pews. A bulletin announcement was sent to parishes so that parishioners will know about the brochure. An article was written for The Catholic Exponent describing the brochure and how to obtain a copy.

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.

3. The Chancellor/Safe Environment Coordinator speaks at meetings of new principals and new teachers about our Child Protection Policy and compliance issues, explaining procedures for signing an acknowledgement of the policy, fingerprinting and in-service training. The Chancellor/Safe Environment Coordinator spoke at a meeting for new facilitators for the in-service training. The questions which followed generated good discussion.

4. 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.

5. Each month the diocesan paper, The Catholic Exponent, publishes a notice about reporting abuse.

6. Twice a 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. This status report is generated from the data base in which compliance is recorded. Parishes and schools appreciate this so they can update and/or delete persons. Some parishes and schools request a status report regularly.

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