

2013 Additional Actions Compilation

Diocese of Albany, New York

Formation for the Deaconate

Monthly Meetings are held with the men in formation. At each monthly meeting there is a period of time dedicated to checking-in. The purpose of this time is to hear about issues within the lines of the men of formation. These discerners cover topics like boundaries, gender bias, safe environment and multi cultural traditions that arise out of the parish visits that all candidates and aspirants are required to do. Further, time is set aside monthly for an individual discussion between the candidate/aspirant and their Formation Director to discuss the same areas.

Diocesan Audits

The bishop has appointed a team of three deacons to audit the parishes. The goal is to audit each parish once every three years. If there are matters that need additional review, a follow up visit is conducted.

Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania

Policies & Procedures

Created and added policy on *Use of Parishioner Homes for Parish Meetings*. This states that no meetings or activities involving children, sponsored by a Parish, School or Diocesan location may be held at a private residence. This includes CCD/Prep classes, CYO practices or games, Youth ministry meetings and gatherings and sacramental preparation. All sponsored gatherings involving children must be held at a parish, school public property or rental facility approved by the Pastor/Principal/Administrator.

Conferences

The Victim Assistance Coordinator and Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator attended the National Convention. The Vicar General, Diocesan Attorney, Victim Assistance Coordinator, Charter Compliance Officer, and Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator attended the October 2012 webinar regarding the annual Charter audit performed for the USCCB by Stonebridge Business Partners.

Cooperation with local organizations

A new Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Act (Act 126 of 2012) requires all school districts in Pennsylvania including public, private and Charter schools, to require one 3-hour child abuse awareness training every five years for all school employees... The Diocese's Charter Compliance Officer has created a training program and has been working with the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference to get it approved. The training program has been approved by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare. We have implemented all the changes requested by the PDE and are awaiting their official approval. PDE's approval will include Act 48 credits for the training that are continuing education credits required for teachers to keep their certification. This program will be used as a model for other Pennsylvania Dioceses.

Diocese of Amarillo, Texas

Training

In May 2013 Priests and Deacons were required to attend Boundaries Training by Praesidium. This training was specifically geared for the clergy and is above and beyond the Praesidium standard safe environment training for adults.

Archdiocese of Anchorage, Alaska

Cooperation with local organizations

On February 7, 2013, A Pastoral Day was held which focused on Informative Presentations and Exercises on the Dynamics and Pastoral Responses to both Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. A Pastoral Day is a day designated for Archdiocesan Clergy and Pastoral Ministers of the Parishes and Schools to come together for learning and sharing on topics helpful to their ministry. This day included presentations and exercises from a local Domestic Violence Agency, AWAIC, Alaska Women's Aid in Crisis. The Alaska Governor's Coordinator on his Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Initiative, a local Priest and Victim of Sexual Abuse, the Archdiocesan Victim's Assistance Coordinator and an Outreach Case Manager from a local youth homeless center.

On Thursday, March 28, 2013, the Archdiocese Chancery Staff, Archbishop, and members of the Alaska Native Ministry Group joined with the community in the Governor's "Choose Respect" March in Anchorage. Following this few block march, presentations were made by survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault as well as the Lieutenant Governor of Alaska and an Alaskan U.S. Senator on Policy.

Also on Thursday, March 28, 2013, all parishes were encouraged to join their local communities' "Choose Respect" March and it was done by both St. Michael's Parish in Palmer, AK and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Soldotna, Alaska.

Diocese of Arlington, Virginia

Outreach

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. During this audit period, the group met on January 7, 2013 to discuss how survivors might assist in educating the community through deanery meetings throughout the diocese.

The Survivor's Planning Group initially requested that we offer a yearly retreat to our victims/survivors. We have had yearly retreats for the past four years including the last audit year. The Victim Assistance Coordinators sent color copies of the schedule to all pastors for posting at their parishes.

Diocese of Arlington, Virginia (*Continued*)

Communication

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.

Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Policies & Procedures

Annual on-site Audits -Audits are conducted on the premises of the parishes, schools and Diocesan program locations. Renewal training course offered for first time via Safe and Sacred Website: *Catholic Professional Boundaries*. Re-programming of data tracking system to include additional organizational category of "Consult Required".

Diocese of Beaumont, Texas

Policies & Procedures

On 5-15-2013 the Bishop of Beaumont implemented throughout the diocese a "Social Media Policy" which contains components of safe environment for minors. It was e-mailed to all locations for distribution to their employees and volunteers, and it is uploaded to the diocesan website (www.dioceseofbmt.org) under the "Safe Environment" tab. It is also under "Employees" and under "Resources".

Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama

Communication

Weekly announcements in Diocese Catholic paper "One Voice" concerning reporting of child sexual abuse to Office of Child and Youth Protection, also published requirement that adults having access to minors in programs, classes, or activities of Catholic institutions are required to attend "Youth Protection 1" every three years.

Diocese of Bismarck, ND

Training

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 2012-2013 audit year:

- August 2012 issue: Keeping your kids safe in sports
- September 2012 issue: How to talk to your children about child sexual abuse
- October 2012 issue: Halloween safety tips
- November 2012 issue: Together, we can prevent child abuse
- December 2012 issue: Help children use social networking sites safely
- January 2013 issue: Children and cell phones
- February 2013 issue: Help children use social networking sites safely
- March 2013 issue: What can I teach my child to help keep her safe?
- April 2013 issue: Keeping children safe inside their homes
- May 2013 issue: Together, we can prevent child abuse

Outreach

The Diocesan website, www.bismarckdiocese.com, was revised in October 2012 to make it more user-friendly. This includes the sections on our Safe Environment Program and Victim Assistance.

The Diocese promoted an event, “Unwrapping the Gift of Healing Prayer”, which was held in Bismarck at the Church of the Ascension on September 21-22, 2012. This event featured Fr. Larry Carew, who focuses on healing as it applies to the lives of ordinary men and women, the clergy; those who suffer incarceration and those who have been victimized by physical, emotional or sexual abuse. This event was advertised in the monthly Diocesan newspaper, the *Dakota Catholic Action*.

Diocese of Boise, Idaho

Training

During the 2012-2013 audit year we have taken steps to include in our safe environment programs for employees and volunteers discussion centered around the internet, social media and bullying as part of a more comprehensive effort in providing safe environment training. This effort was based on evaluation feedback submitted to our trainers in previous training and has been positively received by both trainers and those employees and volunteers being trained in safe environment. The additional safe environment training was partly accomplished by updating our PowerPoint presentation and discussion related to the presentation. Emphasis remains on sexual abuse of minors but it is also recognized that a safe environment must also include other areas where children are abused both mentally and physically recognizing that bullying and malicious gossip can also have serious life consequences for our youth.

Diocese of Boise, Idaho (*Continued*)

Policies & Procedures

During the past audit year we have developed and implemented comprehensive social media guidelines which were brought before the Presbyteral Council on two occasions and received approval by our Bishop on March 18th, 2013. Input was sought from youth ministers, school principals, pastoral center department directors and our pastors in developing the policy resulting in a sense of ownership among our pastors, school principals, youth ministers and others who work with our youth. The guidelines address a variety of situations involving adults working with youth including areas such as the internet, texting web pages, social networking, blogging, on-line games and appropriate correspondence between adults and youth. Another document was also developed titled, "Frequently Asked Questions About the Social Media Guidelines" which further clarified the intent of the guidelines. Those utilizing the guidelines have expressed appreciation for the consistent direction which the guidelines provide in appropriate communications between adults and our youth.

Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut

Communication

During Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Diocese of Bridgeport distributed pamphlets and articles to schools and parishes through the diocesan website and Bridge communication. Information and resources, including links to the specific resources offered by the U.S.C.C.B. Office of Child and Youth Protection, are posted on our website each April and remain on the website throughout the year.

The Bridge is a weekly online communication provided to all Pastors, Directors of Religious Education, School Principals, Program Directors, Administrators, school and parish offices and Catholic Charities programs. The Bridge is also listed on the Diocese of Bridgeport website and includes a section on Safe Environment training opportunities, program updates and news. The Bridge includes U.S.C.C.B. warnings and notifications concerning members of the clergy who are not in good standing. This newsletter is posted online at www.bridgeportdiocese.com.

Conferences

The Director of Safe Environments attended a workshop at the Diocese of Springfield, MA on the topic of pornography and protecting the family. Peter C. Kleponis, Ph.D., is scheduled to provide a workshop in the Diocese of Bridgeport from his program, "*Fighting Porn in Our Culture ... and Winning!*" The topics include: The Pornography Epidemic in America, Protecting Families and the Recovery Process.

The victim assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Bridgeport attended facilitator training on (M-TREM) Men's Trauma Recovery and Empowerment Model and continuing education on sexual abuse trauma and recovery.

Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut (*Continued*)

Outreach

In December 2012, Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinators were available for counseling and assistance to St. Rose parishioners, families and employees following the school shooting in Newtown, CT. The week before Christmas, both Victim Assistance Coordinators were available to provide counseling at a community gathering of students and families from both Newtown elementary schools following the tragedy.

Training

The Safe Environment awareness training program in the Diocese of Bridgeport includes Independent Contractors, Tenants 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. 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 Diocesan property. The owner of the company must provide documentation that employees have cleared a criminal background check. The Diocese of Bridgeport has a zero tolerance policy for crimes against children or a sex crime.

Safe Environment planning committees were part of parish events including carnivals, fairs, retreats and trips. Several parishes set up informational booths on Safe Environments during the actual event. The Office for Pastoral Services coordinated meetings and provided informational materials on Safe Environments for every youth ministry event. Safe Environment training is made available to anyone interested in the community including parishioners, parents, grandparents, and outside groups.

The Safe Environment Office issues a card to every VIRTUS participant. The card provides information about the Diocesan website where participants may download the Code of Conduct and Sexual Misconduct Policy. The card describes all Safe Environment requirements and serves as immediate proof of awareness training attendance following a live VIRTUS session. This card provides the 24- hour Diocesan Victim Assistance phone number and the Child Abuse and Neglect Careline number.

Cooperation with local organizations

The Safe Environment Office works collaboratively with a local sexual assault crisis program which is one of the largest providers of child sexual abuse prevention programs in the public schools. The Director of Safe Environments has previewed samples of public school safety programs. Several of the public school trainers are also certified as VIRTUS facilitators for the Diocese of Bridgeport. Several of the volunteer VIRTUS facilitators are employees of the CT Department of Children and Family Services and local police departments.

Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut (*Continued*)

Policies & Procedures

The Diocese of Bridgeport conducts onsite financial audits at the parishes and our insurance carrier conducts routine inspections of parish property. The auditors request information on Safe Environments. Any issues noted at the time of the site visits are reported to Safe Environments and Human Resources.

The Human Resource Department provides guidelines to schools and parishes on the safe storage and processing of criminal background checks. This policy helps to prevent identity theft.

Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina

Policies & Procedures

In the fall of 2012, a diocesan-wide safe environment record-keeping system was made available to all diocesan locations. At the time of the launch, the program included more than 30,000 employee and volunteer records of training and background checks. Training was provided at various diocesan locations in using the system and in overall diocesan safe environment requirements. Parishes and schools can use the system to check compliance and to help maintain their own safe environment records. The information in the system continues to be updated and over time will provide a permanent compliance record for the diocese.

Archdiocese of Chicago, Illinois

Training

Began presentation of the program *Critical Conversations* for priests and deacons. *Critical Conversations* is a live training program on boundaries, pornography and the appropriate use of electronic media.

Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio

Policies & Procedures

During the audit period, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati implemented the VIRTUS® Child Protection Training Program for all clerics, employees, and volunteers who have contact with children. In doing so, we became the 129th diocese / eparchy to use VIRTUS®. This program has been well received by those who have received the VIRTUS® training. We first trained almost 400 Facilitators. Those Facilitators have since trained over 15,000 persons all across the Archdiocese. We also began to explore doing background checks for every cleric, employee and volunteer once every five years. Finally, we began to explore using an outside contractor, called SELECTiON.COM®, to do both background checks through fingerprinting and through electronic database checks on all persons who have contact with children in the Archdiocese.

Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio

Communication

The Communications Department sponsored a media blitz in the African-American community to alert people to the importance of protecting all children. The radio spot and script aired every day in April 2013 on Cleveland radio station WERE 1490 AM. The station targets a predominantly African-American audience and the campaign was tied into “National Child Abuse Prevention” month. The Diocese of Cleveland was the named sponsor and a Call to Action was included.

Outreach

During the Audit period, we had a survivor of abuse ask for help from his parish for recovery. The parish responded to the request and the survivor elected to return to his Catholic community and share his experiences from trauma through healing. He especially wanted to encourage other victims estranged from the Church to reach out for help. As a result of this open discussion, the parish established an outreach ministry to victims of sexual abuse, called Wounded Healers. The group gathered for several months and has continued its outreach via a website inviting victims to come forward and share in the healing. These materials are available in English and Spanish.

Diocese of Colorado Springs, Colorado

Training

Every year, we develop, distribute, and require Update Training be done in our parishes and schools with employees and volunteers who have ongoing contact with children and youth. We facilitate two meetings per year of our Parish and School Safe Environment Coordinators for the purpose of further education, sharing of best practices, and mutual support.

Policies & Procedures

We conduct parish reviews of the implementation of the Bishops’ Charter, thereby enabling us to support the parishes, answer questions, and give feedback on what is going well and what needs to be strengthened. Some parishes are including child safety strategies as they renovate buildings and add classrooms by putting windows in doors and including bathrooms in classrooms so children do not need to leave the room to use bathroom facilities. They are also giving access to catechists to the diocesan intra-net where forms and safe environment information is given. There are parishes that use hall monitors during the time that religious education classes are meeting, and some that secure the exterior doors to the building and post a security person to screen anyone who would like to enter.

Communication

Every April, we provide our parishes and schools with posters, bulletin inserts, pulpit announcements, and other information (including the procedures on how to make a report) to acknowledge Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

Policies & Procedures

The Diocese of Columbus continues its system of self-audits and onsite audits for parishes and schools. This entailed having each parish and school complete a report to the Diocese of Columbus regarding their compliance with diocesan policy and the Charter and Norms. The Diocese then set up a 3-year cycle whereby diocesan staff members visit each parish and school to assess their compliance. This has proved to be most helpful and has enabled the Diocese of Columbus to better identify which parishes and schools are fully in compliance and which ones need additional assistance from the Diocese in order to be fully in compliance. We started our third cycle of audits in 2013. In addition to continuing what was started previously, the Diocese of Columbus has added an element of follow-up reports that provide pastors and/or principals with a summary of areas on which they may need to accomplish additional tasks in order to achieve full compliance. This supplements the initial audit results letter that is sent to the pastor and/or principal and fosters greater communication between the Diocese and pastors/principals. Finally, we have also begun an ongoing process of evaluation of our auditing efforts in order to refine our techniques and better detect non-compliance. This year these improvement efforts led to the most thorough reporting back to us that we have experienced.

Cooperation with local organizations

“PGC Outreach” – we have conducted VIRTUS *Protecting God’s Children* or *Protecting All Children* (secular version of program) sessions for: Center of Science and Industry “COSI on Wheels” personnel (10/22/2012); students and faculty at Denison University, Granville (01/17/2013); Inspiration to Movement faculty (a dance studio in downtown Columbus, 06/06/2013); and student nurses and their instructor at Mount Carmel College of Nursing (10/23/2012, 01/22/2013). Some attendees were affiliated with a Catholic parish or school, but most were not.

Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas

Communication

Established PSA’s are run on the KLUX 89.5 Radio Station in English and Spanish pertaining to Child Abuse Awareness Month, the push for Safe Environment Coordinators and their related trainings and in promoting the Victim’s Services piece of the Office for Child and Youth Protection.

Cooperation with local organizations

Participation in the Crimes Victim’s Rights Week of Nueces County held at the Nueces County Courthouse under the direction of the District Attorney’s Office, Office of Victim Assistance

Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota

Training

Provided bullying policy and investigative forms to each of our Schools. Made a bullying presentation to the Cathedral Parish students in grades 1-6 this past May.

Diocese of Dallas, Texas

Training

In September, 2012, we had a combined training including priests, deacons and parish/school safe environment directors given by Fr. Gerald J. McGlone, S.J., Ph.D. from St. John Vianney Center in Philadelphia on how to have “Critical Conversations.”

In April 2013, we had a meeting of all parish/school safe environment directors at the Dallas Child Advocacy Center. This was an all-day training using a resource developed by the Child Advocacy Center on “Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse.” This training will be used as retraining for our clergy, employees and volunteers.

Policies & Procedures

The Diocese of Dallas, contracted with the Hay Group to have all our parishes/schools and non-parish based organizations audited.

Diocese of Davenport, Iowa

Conferences

Two from our staff went to Omaha in August 2012 to the National Safe Environment training which included our VAC and Safe Environment Coordinator. VAC wrote article in the Catholic Messenger August 30, 2012 on the Annual National Safe Environment and Victim Assistance Coordinators Leadership Conference in Omaha, Nebraska.

Training

Speaker Michael Ferjac spoke to the Davenport Deanery and several religious education locations on internet safety and pornographic materials.

Training was conducted on the new Safe Environment Curriculum “Circle of Grace” for grades PK-12. There is also an assessment instrument that was added. DVD and Powerpoint with presenter’s notes and voice overlay is available for parishes to use with teachers and catechists. Article published in Catholic Messenger on the new Safe Environment Curriculum “Circle of Grace”.

Training was conducted for all local safe environment administrators at the parish/school on the VIRTUS system and the new background check procedure with ESR. Our Virtus training system was integrated with our new background check processing company, Employment Screening Resources (ESR) in mid June.

Archdiocese of Denver, Colorado

Conferences

- Gospel of Life Conference, October 20, 2012: 8:00-3:00, distributed child safety information. Information was warmly received.
- Living the Catholic Faith Conference, March 1-2, 2013: 9:30-4:30 & 8:00-3:00, rented booth, distributed child safety information and showed DVD from Called to Protect for Youth. Information was warmly received.
- Take 25, May 25, 2013. Requested collaboration with Colorado Knights of Columbus to distribute the “25 Ways to Make Kids Safer” flier after all weekend masses in Colorado. I think only a few councils were able to complete the request. Next year will be better. Information was warmly received.
- Safe Environment Coordinator was a guest speaker at Knights of Columbus Fraternal Social. She shared information about child safety and adolescent brain development.

Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa

Policies & Procedures

Prior to this audit year, there had been no provision for on-going background evaluations for employees and volunteers. That policy was modified to require a new background evaluation every seven years. “Catching up” this year created the need for many more evaluations than would routinely be processed on an annual basis. During the prior audit year, 684 background evaluations were processed in comparison to 1698 in the current year.

Diocese of El Paso, Texas

Communication

The Diocese of El Paso supported “April is Child Abuse Prevention” Month. The Office of Safe Environment sent out a memorandum to all pastors in order to promote this cause including:

- Information on the response by the Catholic Church to sexual abuse (in English and Spanish)
- Child Abuse Prevention blessing (in English and Spanish)
- 25 Ways to Make Kids Safer (also in English and Spanish).

The areas of safety that were discussed are at home, going to and from school, out and about, and on the net. These topics provided valuable information to our parishioners. Parishes were asked to use this information in their bulletins and to send a copy to the Office of Safe Environment for documentation. We received bulletins from different parishes that promoted this worth while cause and provided a wealth of information for parents and children. This action goes hand in hand with the promise of maintaining a safe environment for all.

Diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania

Training

The diocese hosted a workshop entitled *Problematic Internet Use - Pastoral Implications* on October 26, 2012. It was attended by 103 participants including our bishops, priests, seminarians, deacons, religious and lay ministers. The workshop was designed with three purposes in mind: to familiarize the participants with uses of the internet which have proven to be problematic for various psychological, moral and spiritual reasons, including gambling and pornography; to equip participants to better serve parishioners, students, and clients who are struggling with problematic use; and to help participants reach out appropriately to colleagues who may be struggling with problematic use.

Communication

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. With the flyer copy-ready, parishes and schools were especially willing to distribute it. 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 home page with easy access to the diocesan Child Protection page.

Conferences

The SEC, along with Catholic Schools Office personnel, participated in a webinar sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials entitled *Background Checks for School Employees* on April 19, 2013.

Cooperation with local organizations

Our diocese continues to maintain membership on the Erie County Child Abuse Task Force. The SEC participated in our annual "ZooBoo" experience at the Erie Zoo, representing the Task Force through dissemination of information to parents and candy to children.

Provided information and assistance to Atty. James Lober, volunteer chancellor at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church in Houston in regard to inclusion of material on church websites.

Continued our communication with Penn State University after providing input for the creation of their online inservice during the last audit period. We were granted access to their training program for perusal. We have also obtained resources for the implementation of an expanded training program that has been mandated by the Pennsylvania state legislature from our contact at Penn State, Dr. Tim Balliett, Academic Adviser, World Campus and Affiliate Assistant Professor of Education (Educational Psychology), College of Education.

Diocese of Evansville, Indiana

Communication

During the month of April 2013 (Prevent Child Abuse Month), I selected bulletin announcements from the list provided by the Office of Child & Youth Protection. The bulletin announcement was published in the weekly issue of our diocesan newspaper, THE MESSAGE. Parishes were also asked to use the bulletin announcements in their weekend church bulletin.

Conferences

Our Diocesan Review Board members, Assistant Supt. Of Schools, Director of Vocations, COO, Assistant Director of Catechesis, Bishop Thompson, and myself participated in the webinar presented by the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection in October 2012. One of the outcomes of that participation was the addition of a new Review Board member who is a retired police detective with expertise in investigating child abuse.

Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska

Training

The Diocese participates in an annual Safe Sunday each October at which parish training for all ages is offered, along with prayers for survivors. If a parish wishes to train at another time, they inform the Diocese.

Outreach

Because of distances in rural Alaska along with the scarcity of counseling resources, the Diocese flies survivors into Anchorage several times per year for therapy and provides hotel accommodations and a food allowance.

Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts

Training

After 10 years of using the same curriculum, the DREs expressed a strong desire to have new materials that everyone was more comfortable using. The OCP sourced and located videos that were age-appropriate and in keeping with Catholic moral teachings. The videos were approved by a newly-created DRE Advisory Committee, as well as the deans of the diocese and the members of the bishop's office, with promulgation by Bishop Coleman. A curriculum was written around the videos, also approved by the groups cited above, and the old curriculum was updated. The new Safe Environment training binders were distributed in June to all parishes and all DREs have been trained on the implementation of the new curriculum. Each parish may choose the Video Series, the Basal Text Series, or a combination of the two. In the coming year, there is a plan to help all DREs communicate more effectively through the secure website of our database company.

Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts (*Continued*)

Policies & Procedures

The diocese was finally able to purchase a new database system that will allow us the ability to provide accurate counts for reports. This is not necessarily in excess of what the *Charter* requires, but it represents a huge improvement in data as well as processes in the diocese. The new system requires DREs to take full responsibility for tracking and reporting information to CSS, which will thereby keep all personnel in compliance more effectively. The diocese also paid to bring a trainer from the database company to the diocese for the better part of a week, ensuring that training was available for every DRE. They were given instruction materials and had the chance to ask questions directly of the owner of the database company.

Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas

Training

Safe Environment Training is required every three years in the Diocese of Fort Worth. In addition to live-renewal sessions offered at each parish and school, a “library” of online training modules was developed and the first round of modules was made available to all clergy, staff, and volunteers starting in August 2010. In 2012-2013, a second round of modules was developed to meet the needs of individuals whose training expires in 2013. In addition, for clergy, employees, and volunteers who have already attended the live Safe Environment renewal training session and who are unable to utilize the online program, a library of articles has been developed for mailing to those needing renewal. Finally, the “Chaperone Course” was translated into Spanish and made available both in hard-copy and online.

Outreach

Four Spanish-speaking counselors were added to the existing group of three-Spanish-speaking counselors, to provide services to Spanish-speaking victims.

Diocese of Fresno, California

Policies & Procedures

The Diocesan Safe Environment Training Handbook was revised the summer of 2012 to incorporate training and information about Bullying and Cyber Safety in addition to information about Child abuse to all who adults who have contact with minors. This includes all clergy, seminarians and employees who have contact with minors. Tri-fold brochures were created on 3 topics, Child Abuse, Cyber Safety and Bullying and they were distributed to each parish/catholic school as an educational resource for the parish and school communities and for use in parent education.

Diocese of Fresno, California (*Continued*)

Communication

The *Central California Catholic Life* is the official publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno and is issued six times a year. In the last audit year, there has been an article in 5 out of the 6 issues related to Child Safety, and/or diocesan policy and practices and general information about child abuse.

Training

In collaboration with the Family Life Office and Safe Environment, a Committee comprised of diocesan personnel and laypeople with professional backgrounds in health care, ministry, psychology and counseling has been formed with the intention of providing awareness of the growing problem of pornography. The goal of the Committee is to provide resources to pastors for their education and to distribute as needed. These resources will provide information about pornography and its effects, as well as resources for healing and recovery and also to provide information and educational materials via the diocesan Family Life website and if possible on our own KNXT Channel 49/38 (diocesan owned television station).

Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico

Training

On May 3-4, 2013, Mary Jane Doerr, Associate Director of Child and Youth Protection at the USCCB, traveled to Gallup, NM and presented a two-day workshop to the Diocesan Review Board, Victim Assistance Coordinator, and the Safe Environment Coordinator. The presentation included the duties, functions and membership of the Review Board and the process to be followed upon receipt and investigation of a complaint.

Diocese of Gary, Indiana

Cooperation with other organizations

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 has served 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.

Training

All education majors at Calumet College of St. Joseph are Virtus trained. All nursing students at University of St. Francis, Crown Point are Virtus trained.

Diocese of Gary, Indiana

Communication

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

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

Diocese of Grand Island, Nebraska

Training

Respect, responsibility, and caring are key components of a Catholic Faith Environment. This sort of climate is also the key to preventing bullying and relational aggression among youth. During this audit period, annual regional safe environment workshops featured facilitators Vikki Deuel and Mary Ann Richards of “Kids that Care.” The facilitators were instrumental in turning the middle school where they worked as administrator and counselor from a school known for bullying and aggression to a National School of Character. In their sessions they shared how they accomplished this, presenting concrete strategies for preventing bullying and empowering youth to live the Golden Rule.

In addition to regional SEC workshops sponsored by the diocese in Grand Island, Alliance, and North Platte, sessions were also offered at the diocesan catechetical conference, “Nebraskaland Festival of Faith” held in North Platte; the diocesan youth conference “Going Bananas for Jesus” held in Gering; the Diocesan catholic school teacher’s convention in North Platte; St. James’ Parish in Kearney, Kearney Catholic Schools, and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Sargent, and St. Luke’s School / Ogallala Public School – Ogallala.

One tool introduced in Creating and Environment of Respect, Responsibility, and Caring sessions, was the use of the “Purple Hands Pledge” - an initiative of the “Hands and Words Are Not for Hurting Project.” Parishes and schools across the diocese incorporated youth recitation of the pledge “I will not use my hands or my words for hurting myself or others” into their daily schedule. The pledge provides a simple reminder to show respect and care for others and provides youth with a shared vocabulary to address hurtful words and actions of others.

Diocese of Grand Island, Nebraska (*Continued*)

Conferences

The Diocese of Grand Island co-hosted the 2012 National Safe Environment Victim Assistance Coordinators Conference with the Archdiocese of Omaha August 12 -16. The theme of the conference was “Chosen to Heal and Protect,” reinforcing the idea that serving in the role of SEC or VAC serves a calling within the Church and is intimately tied to our Catholic Faith. Topics covered by the conference included: *Combating Charter Fatigue, The History of Child Abuse and Neglect, Canon Law: The Basics and How It Applies to the Charter, Secondary Trauma, Helping without Hurting: Ethical Considerations, Preventing Peer to Peer Abuse, Where We Have Been and Where We are Going, Sexual Addiction and Pornography, Freedom from Pornography: Hope of Recovery, The Connection Between Sexual Trauma and Sexual Addiction, Finding Jesus in the Ugly, Ecumenical Outreach and Prevention, Helping Offenders Be Accountable: A Restorative and Pastoral Approach, Unique Aspects of Female Offenders, Self Care for Those in the Front Line, Goals for the Next Decade, Foreign Born Clergy, Audit Results.* The five day conference also offered an audit workshop and Prayer Service for Victims of Abuse.

Cooperation with local organizations

Bishop Dendinger celebrated a Mass for the prevention of child abuse at the Cathedral in Grand Island, Nebraska, during Child Abuse Prevention Month. Youth from Grand Island Central Catholic provided music for the bilingual mass. A reception following the mass featured refreshments and activities for children and families. Mary Ann Richards and Vikki Deuel of Kids that Care assisted families in signing the “Purple Hands Pledge.” Games and activities were sponsored by Kids that Care, The Hands and Words are Not for Hurting Project, and the Diocese of Grand Island Child Protection Office. Area businesses donated prizes and refreshments. A slide show and tables displaying various outreach projects of the diocesan Child Protection Office. Tables also included resources for parents.

Take 25 – National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: Resources from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and information about hosting a Take 25 Event were distributed and past Take 25 events were featured in the diocesan Child Protection Office slide show at the reception following the diocesan Mass for Prevention of Child Abuse in April. Materials were also distributed at regional SEC workshops in June.

Pinwheels for Prevention: The Diocese of Grand Island Chancery Office participated in the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign, displaying blue and silver pinwheels in plantings in front of the Chancery throughout the month of April. The Pinwheels for Prevention campaign is a child abuse prevention awareness campaign initiated by Prevent Child Abuse America and implemented by community abuse prevention coalitions.

Diocese of Grand Island, Nebraska (*Continued*)

Cooperation with local organizations (*continued*)

St. Patrick's parish in Sidney, in collaboration with the Dove's Domestic Violence shelter/prevention program offered a summer program for middle and high school youth called the Hands for Growing Project. This collaborative program completed its seventh year in 2013. Youth volunteers tend the garden of the local domestic violence shelter while learning simple skills to grow a healthy garden and skills needed to grow healthy relationships.

Parishes and schools utilized local speakers and collaborated with local public schools to provide continuing education in right relationships, abuse prevention, bullying prevention, internet safety and suicide prevention. Parishes / schools involved in such collaborative efforts included: St. Luke's Parish and School – Ogallala, St. Patrick's Parish – Sidney, Holy Spirit Parish – North Platte, St. Ann's Parish – Lexington, Resurrection Parish – Grand Island, North Platte Catholic Schools – North Platte.

The Diocese of Grand Island Child Protection Office (CPO) sponsored a tree in the Stuhr Museum's Festival of Trees during the Christmas season. 2012 marked the CPO's fifth year of participation in this event. Each year the CPO decorates a tree with a "right relationship" theme and distributes information regarding abuse prevention and the efforts of the Catholic Church to provide healing / outreach and create safe environments. The theme of the 2012 tree was "the Golden Rule. Trees from previous years' events were displayed in parishes across the diocese.

Diocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Communication

Initiated a pamphlet titled "Questions and Answers about the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator for Sexually Abused Minors." Several copies of the pamphlet were sent to all Parishes, Mission and Campus Ministries. They were asked to display in a prominent place. Several positive comments received.

Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut

Training

Virtus Critical Conversations- The Director and both Coordinators of the Safe Environment office attended a facilitator training workshop for Virtus: Critical Conversations Program. This program qualified each of us to be facilitators for this program. Critical Conversations is a program to be used with Priests, Deacons or Lay ministry to open up the lines of communication regarding boundaries and the emerging role of the Internet. Planning stages are in effect to have a pilot workshop with some of the international priests.

Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut (*Continued*)

Training

An SE Coordinator was called to facilitate a grade level assembly regarding “sexting”. The particular parish had a public school scandal in which many boys were arrested and suspended regarding a sexting incident in the school. The parish where many of these boys attended religious education thought it would be beneficial for our office to come and speak to them. It was believed that our input would be more credible than just another parent or CCD class.

Diocese of Honolulu, Hawaii

Training

With representatives from each vicariate in the diocese in attendance, this symposium brought to light Pope John Paul II's integrated vision of the human person - body, soul, and spirit. His reflections are based on scripture and contain a vision of the human person truly worthy of man. He discusses who man was in the beginning, who he is now (after original sin), and who he will be in the age to come. He then applies this message to the vocations of marriage and celibacy, in preparation for the Kingdom of Heaven. Participants were trained on how to use a number of ToB resources at their parishes/schools, including “Learning About LIFE” (Love, Infatuation, Friendship, Exploitation), a safe environment resource for facilitating parent/child communication processes.

Faith Formation Conference for Religious Educators, Lay Ministers and Clergy
July 2012 (Kauai); September 2012 (Maui); June 2013 (Oahu)

Workshops presented included:

- *Anti-Bullying Strategies*. Presented by Sr. John Joseph Gilligan, CSJ
- *My Body, My Borders* for Children and Teens. Presented by Sr. John-Joseph Gilligan, CSJ
- *Learning About LIFE (Love, Infatuation, Friendship, Exploitation)* by Sr. Angela Laurenzo, CSJ and Candie Pinault

Distributed to parents: “Talking to Your Child about Personal Safety”. Source: The Sex Abuse Treatment Center of Hawaii <http://www.satchawaii.org/>

Various child safety events at parishes

During the month of April, parishes and schools were provided with activities that families could do together: Distributed “Start the Conversation” Toolkit . Developed by the Hawaii Sex Abuse Treatment Center, the toolkit assists adults in starting conversations with their teen or pre-teen about key topics such as teen dating abuse and staying safe online. Promoted “Pinwheels for Prevention”, a community-based event sponsored by Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii held at the Hawaii state capitol. Each pinwheel represented a call to action to prevent child abuse.

Diocese of Honolulu, Hawaii (*Continued*)

Cooperation with local organizations

- 18th Annual Men's March and Rally Against Violence

Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana

Training

The diocese requires Safe Environment trainings as well as annual continuing education for all individuals who work with youth. This includes youth who work with other youth. These youth are shown a video or DVD to help them identify and/or understand abuse, be it physical, sexual or abuse as well as other topics for continuing education. They must also read and sign off on a Youth Code of Professional Conduct. When these trainings are done, paperwork is sent in to the diocesan Safe Environment Office where trainings are recorded and maintained in a database.

Diocese of Indianapolis, Indiana

Training

In 2012, the Archdiocese began implementation of the Circle of Grace program to provide a consistent and comprehensive training curriculum for children and youth in grades K through 12.

In June 2013, the Archdiocese announced the adoption of the Safe and Sacred program to provide easier access to training for adults on the topics of child sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect. The program is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week in both English and Spanish and includes an assessment of learning. The Archdiocese also now requires that new clergy, employees, and volunteers complete child protection training before the first day of ministry, employment, or volunteer service.

Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi

Communication

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.

Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi (Continued)

Training

In February, 2013, the Diocese of Jackson brought Nancy Kluge, Ph.D., LCPC, a mental health therapist with Saint Luke Institute in Silver Spring, Maryland to talk about the shocking growth of pornography use in the world today. Dr. Kluge presented a workshop to clergy in the diocese, *Walking Into the Light: Realities of the Internet*, which included information on the use of pornography, risk factors and warning signs. She also presented a workshop to parents, lay church personnel, school administrators and teachers. The workshop addressed the dangers of internet pornography for children and teens.

April is recognized nationwide as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Child Abuse awareness resources were forwarded to all the parishes and schools in April. Mississippi is now the 50th state to have a chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America. Rebecca Mansell, Director of Children's Justice Center is the newly appointed director of Prevent Child Abuse America, Mississippi. Ms. Mansell attended one of the diocesan *Called to Protect* training-the-trainer workshops in April. Afterwards, Ms. Mansell stated she would report to the National Prevent Child Abuse America Office the efforts being made by the Diocese of Jackson in protecting children.

The Diocese of Jackson requires that any active employee/significant volunteer participate in a review session every odd-number calendar year. The online review program is an internet-based program compatible with the Protection of Children Database. The review program allows an applicant to log-in 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 and presents the applicant with a test score and certificate. The 2013 online review program was implemented and available for applicant participation beginning in May, 2013. Active applicants must complete the online program prior to November 30, 2013, in order to remain compliant in the Protection of Children Program.

Diocese of Jefferson City, Missouri

Communication

April Child Abuse Prevention Month: Blue Ribbon campaign—I prepared some blue ribbons and encouraged Catholic Center employees to wear one during the month of April as part of Child Abuse Prevention month. I also left some ribbons at the front desk so that visitors could take one and wear it as well.

Missouri Safe Environment Coordinators meeting: The Safe Environment teams from the four dioceses in our state (Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield and Jefferson City) met in February and in June. This afforded us the opportunity to discuss issues in our particular diocese, share ideas and information, and provide support for each other. This type of gathering had not taken place in the past and was first proposed during the Safe Environment Conference in Omaha in August 2012.

Diocese of Joliet, Illinois

Policies & Procedures

Clergy File Review- The Office of Child and Youth Protection has initiated a project which will involve a thorough review of clergy files by an independent auditor. The review will include all living priests, active deacons and seminarians. The focus will be to ensure that any indications of sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable adults are identified and addressed in accord with the Charter. Details of the review and selection of auditor is underway. Anticipated date of review is fall of 2013.

Cooperation with local organizations

Increased effort by the Office of Child and Youth Protection to coordinate services with neighboring dioceses including joint PGC facilitator trainings, prayer services for those affected by abuse, sharing of other resources.

Diocese of Juneau, Alaska

Outreach

Our Victim Assistance Office continues to provide classes and workshops for survivors of all forms of childhood abuse in our diocesan conference room one evening a week. We have been facilitating these groups for five years now and regularly receive referrals from counselors in the area.

Training

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

Cooperation with local organizations

As the Safe Environment Coordinator, I continue to meet with other agencies in the community and share our resources and practices regarding creating safe environments for children. I've met with other churches and shared our practices and programs with them.

Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan

Policies & Procedures

Mid-year *Preliminary* audit report was required of all local parishes and schools due in January 30, 2013. Each parish/school was required to list information on all clergy, employees, volunteers, educators, coaches, scout leaders, and enrollment in religious education classes. The information was checked against information in VIRTUS database and assists parishes and schools to have everyone in compliance. The preliminary audit prompts good communication between parishes/schools and the diocesan office.

Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan (*Continued*)

Training

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. Also, all volunteers who have regular, ongoing, unsupervised contact with minors such as catechists and youth group leaders, must read monthly continued training bulletins. Reading is monitored by a local safe environment coordinator in each parish/school, the Vicar for Clergy, and Direction of Deacon Personnel. 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.

Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas

Policies & Procedures

Onsite parish audits are conducted as part of the Parish Financial Audits and are also conducted as needed at the direction of the Safe Environment Coordinator. The onsite Parish Financial Audits and Safe Environment Program Audits are conducted on a three year cycle with each parish having an onsite audit at least once every three years. Onsite audits are also conducted whenever there is a pastor change.

Outreach

The Archdiocesan Freedom from Pornography Initiative, "*As For Me and My House*", continues to be utilized in our parishes. The staff currently facilitates five Catholic Men's Recovery Groups and one Catholic Spousal Support Group. The Catholic Spousal Support Group is for women whose husbands are involved with pornography and they meet weekly.

Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Missouri

Communication

The OCYP publishes an annual report which outlines the outcome of the investigations and actions, victim services and training and education regarding the work from the three main service areas in the OCYP. Our first comprehensive report for this new office covered the audit period of 7/1/12-6/30/13.

Sent a letter to the Prosecuting Attorneys in the 27 counties in the diocese outlining the diocesan process regarding allegations of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult.

Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Missouri (*Continued*)

Cooperation with local organizations

Developed training module for Mandated Reporting, recognizing child pornography, child obscenity, child erotica and signs of grooming in partnership with The United States Attorney's Office, FBI Cyber Crimes Task Force, and the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Partnered with a local security firm to offer onsite safety and security reviews at parishes and schools.

Partnered with a local security firm to offer live trainings regarding potential security threats, in an effort to avoid mass shootings.

The OCYP team met with MOCSA, Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault, to establish a working relationship. Members of OCYP attended the MOCSA fall luncheon. We refer parishioners to MOCSA resources, including support groups for survivors of sexual abuse and counseling services for victims whose abusers were not associated with the Catholic Church. We are looking at MOCSA teaching resources as we evaluate ways to strengthen our youth programs.

Diocese of Knoxville, Tennessee

Communication

The Diocese of Knoxville solicited the skills of a web developer to re-do our Diocesan "Safe Environment" section of our website. It is now much more user-friendly and contains all of the resources one would need with regards to our Child Protection Program.

Policies & Procedures

The Diocese of Knoxville formalized a "redundant" data retention procedure over our age-specific Safe Environment Training for our children. Training Attendance Rosters and copies of parent Opt-Out forms are now retained not only by the individual school and parish CCD program but also, by the Superintendent of our schools and the Diocesan, Associate Director of our Christian Formation Office.

Diocese of Lacrosse, Wisconsin

Policies & Procedures

The Diocese of La Crosse developed and enacted an IT/Technology Policy, applicable to all employees and volunteers within the Diocese using its devices or internet services, which specifies the appropriate and expected use of diocesan devices/internet services while notifying users of the limitations on expectations of privacy to allow appropriate authorities to monitor one's use of diocesan devices/internet services to ensure compliance with the policy. The policy further specifies investigative protocols for allegations of misuse of diocesan devices/internet services, and it specifies circumstances in which reports of misuse will be made directly to the applicable law enforcement agency.

Diocese of Lansing, Michigan

Cooperation with local organizations

Participated in a Michigan State Police/FBI audit regarding background checks that include live scan fingerprinting. Per Sally, The audit was at the direction of the FBI. All agencies in the state of Michigan that use live scan fingerprinting as a means to background check employees/volunteers, are being audited. It was very comprehensive. The executive summary from the Michigan State Police auditor stated:

“The Michigan State Police (MSP), Criminal Justice Information Center (CJIC), Audit and Training Section (ATS) auditor met with the Diocese of Lansing (DOL) point of contact (POC) on April 2, 2013, to conduct a noncriminal justice agency (NCJA) compliance audit. These audits are being conducted to provide appropriate security and management controls to protect the full lifecycle of Criminal Justice Information (CJI), which includes Criminal History Record Information (CHRI), a subset of CJI.”

Diocese of Laredo, Texas

Communication

Monthly information disseminated to staff via email. Staff received pertinent information on the prevention of child sexual abuse retrieved from various internet sources. A link for accessing the information was sent to staff.

An article on child abuse prevention appeared in the Bishop’s weekly column in the Laredo Morning Times, the local newspaper. The Most Reverend James A. Tamayo highlighted the importance of community participation in the protection of children from abuse. Every Friday in the month of April, the Safe Environment Office (HR Office) disseminated a special message and token in support of the Safe Environment Program and National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Radio announcements were part of the KHOY (diocesan Catholic radio) repertoire during National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and are on-going throughout the year.

Cooperation with local organizations

A link to the Missing and Exploited Children website was available on the Diocese of Laredo website throughout the month of April in support of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Diocese of Las Vegas, Nevada

Training

The Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator hosted two seminars on elder abuse. In this seminar, the Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator educated volunteers on issues such as how to identify elder abuse and the reporting of same. The Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator provided to all local safe environment coordinators the Nevada Elder Abuse Hotline and reiterated how to recognize the signs of elder abuse and the reporting of same.

Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California

Training

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. Since 2010, the Archdiocese has offered “Becoming Home” – a year-long program designed 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 has continued to evolve in response to expressed needs and the evaluations done each year. The program, coordinated by the Vicar for Clergy and Sister Ann Carla Costello, S.N.D., the former Vicar for Women Religious, offers 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. In the current year, increased emphasis was placed on issues of responsible use of social media and internet in ministry and personal situations, as well as more detailed discussions of current legislative issues in the United States that may impact the Church and ministries.

Training on Mandated Reporting of Childhood Neglect and Abuse. In October 2012, in coordination with the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the Archdiocese offered a video-conference training open to clergy, educators and parish staffs throughout the Archdiocese. The training addressed the current laws in California on mandated reporting and the Archdiocesan policies on both mandated and non-mandated reporting, as well as current developments and issues related to possible misconduct between minors. More than 150 persons participated at one of the seven video conference centers.

Cooperation with local organizations

Presentation at Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles. In December 2012, the Victims Assistance Coordinator and General Counsel of the Archdiocese led a discussion with the third-year rabbinic students on the role in California of “clergy” in making mandated reporting and balancing that obligation with the “penitential” privileges under California Law. Both persons regularly are asked to offer insights to other clergy who are confronted with the issue, and this opportunity allowed further discussion with those pursuing studies in the Jewish tradition.

Diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire

Communication

During the fall of 2012, the Diocese of Manchester's safe environment office collaborated with the CYO office to produce a handout entitled, *Boundaries for Coaches*. This resource was distributed to all CYO coaches as refresher training. It was also distributed to parishes and schools via the diocesan bi-weekly electronic newsletter, *eNews*. This bulletin can be found on the Diocese of Manchester website at:

<http://www.catholicnh.org/assets/Documents/ChildSafety/Policies/Boundaries-Coaches.pdf>

This newsletter provided ongoing training for coaches on the important topic of boundaries, which was identified as a subject that needs to be emphasized with this group.

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month (April), a special safe environment newsletter was prepared and provided through *eNews* and email to parishes, schools, camps, and others involved with diocesan child safety efforts. The newsletter included information about a new prayer ministry for victims of abuse; a page for parishes and schools addressing boundary issues; and a page for parents with information about online training, cyberbullying, and the warning signs of abusers. The newsletter can be found at:

<http://www.catholicnh.org/assets/Documents/ChildSafety/SE-Newsletter-2013-April.pdf>

The purpose of the newsletter was to provide ongoing training and information about important child safety topics to staff, volunteers, and parents.

Policies & Procedures

At the request of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, a committee was formed in November 2012 to develop an anti-bullying policy for diocesan Catholic schools. The committee, which was chaired by the diocesan Director of Safe Environment Programs, developed a policy which has been adopted by the Catholic Schools Department. The policy will become effective when school resumes in the fall of 2013 and will be printed in every school handbook. Principals have reacted positively to this new policy and feedback has indicated that they appreciate having a consistent policy that will be in effect at all schools throughout the diocese.

Training

The Diocese of Manchester has recently worked with the McCalmon Group to develop an online sexual harassment training program. Diocesan employees completed the training in January 2013, and all priests, deacons, and seminarians of the Diocese of Manchester were asked to complete the training by June 30, 2013 (some are still in the process of completing this training).

Diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire (*Continued*)

Cooperation with local organizations

The Diocesan Director of Safe Environment Programs partnered with the Interim Executive Director of the New Hampshire Council of Churches to present a workshop for an interfaith group of church leaders entitled, *Reducing the Risk*. Some of the topics that were discussed were: screening and training of volunteers, background check procedures, codes of conduct, appropriate boundaries, online safety, information and statistics about child abuse, and how to report suspected abuse. This workshop may be repeated if there is additional interest. Participants indicated that they were surprised to learn about all that the Catholic Church is doing in respect to child safety and they were appreciative that the Diocese of Manchester was willing to share materials and information with them.

The Diocese of Manchester was one of the sponsors of the NH Children's Trust's *Strengthening Families Summit*, which was held on March 18, 2013 in Concord. The summit brings together hundreds of people who are involved with New Hampshire children and their families for a day of education about ways to prevent child maltreatment. The safe environment office shared a vendor table with Catholic Charities, another sponsor of the summit. Diocese of Manchester safe environment materials were displayed and distributed to many attendees. Many people took copies of the USCCB *Rosary Guide for Healing and Protection* along with small plastic rosaries that were provided to go along with them.

Diocese of Marquette, Michigan

Policies & Procedures

We enhanced background checks for new employees and volunteers. The modified background checks look at all states of residence as well as driving records. The background check is done before an individual is allowed to interact with children and young people. The criminal background checks are required to be repeated every 4 years.

Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Cooperation with local organizations

Both St. Francis de Sales Seminary and Sacred Heart School of Theology cooperate with the Charter and all safe environment policies and procedures in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Partnered with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children with their Take 25 initiative – individuals from both parishes and schools participated in a webinar hosted by the NCMEC, law enforcement and Internet experts regarding online predators. In addition, the NCMEC provided all schools and religious programs with Online Safety Education Kits.

Other Catholic institutions such as St. Charles Youth and Family Services and Carmelite Home for Boys, which function largely as referral sites for the court system, now participate in the providing safe environment education for staff. In addition, St. Charles now requires all foster parents to attend safe environment sessions.

Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin (*Continued*)

Communication

The archdiocese requires all pastors to give one homily a year on the protection of children and safe environments. Even though they are required to do this once a year, many of our clergy address the issue more often.

Safe Environment Week (April 21-27) – As Child Abuse Prevention Month is recognized in the month of April, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee designates one week within the month as Safe Environment Week. This is a time when everyone has the opportunity to simultaneously focus on abuse prevention and the archdiocesan initiatives that are already underway. The theme for 2013 was “Makers of Peace.” With daily reports of violence in our society, the archdiocese wanted to encourage everyone to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace.

- The Safeguarding All of God’s Family program highlighted the month with two separate contests for children and youth in our school and religious education programs. Students were invited to submit either posters or short videos keeping with the theme “Makers of Peace.”
- Pledges for Peace were provided separately for children, schools and parishes, along with worksheets for the classrooms, on peace related themes.
- Archbishop ListECKI addressed both Child Abuse Prevention Month and Safe Environment Week in his weekly communication.
- Bishop Hying addressed the Makers of Peace theme in the Catholic Herald article *Herald of Hope*.
- Dr. Kathleen Cepelka, Superintendent of Schools, addressed peace-making in her April Blog.

Outreach

Archbishop ListECKI presided over a Mass of Atonement for the Deaf and hard-of-Hearing Community on March 18th. The Mass was requested and planned by the members of that community. Father Klusman, himself deaf, and Terri Matenaer, Coordinator of this ministry and also deaf, were key partners in the planning for the event. Given the significant number of deaf Catholics in the Archdiocese and given the tragic abuse of deaf children in a Catholic School for the Deaf by a priest of the Archdiocese, any and all efforts to continue outreach to the community is recognized as important.

Policies & Procedures

A Policy for Overnight Trips with Minors was recommended by the Diocesan Review Board approved by Archbishop ListECKI. The policy addresses a number of issues/questions that have come up regarding safe environment issues with not only overnight trips with minors but any function that might take place away from the parish or school.

Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin (*Continued*)

Training

The Archdiocese welcomed Dr. Fernando Ortiz, National Review Board member and director of the Counseling Center at Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington. Dr. Ortiz gave a talk to members of the clergy relating to sexual abuse and how, as clergy, they can be better equipped to respond to the needs of the victims/survivors and also tend to their own needs.

Diocese of Monterey, California

Training

Sr. Patricia Murtagh, I.M., Director of the Department for the Protection of Children and Young People, continues to have numerous conferences to inform parents about child abuse and prevention.

- Parent Guide: Think First and Stay Safe! How to Protect Children and Teens.
- Let's Talk Teens – Promoting Healthy Relationships and Preventing Exploitation.
- Did you know? Pornography Statistics.
- 12 Actions Parents can take to help prevent Gun Violence.

Cooperation with local organizations

Sr. Patricia Murtagh attends the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) Monterey County, and in collaboration with the Monterey County Department of Behavioral Health.

Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

Training

Piloted a class for catechetical students to keep them safe on the Internet. Run as a 90-minute session that included parents, the feedback was good. Plan is to make it available to parishes as a middle-school opportunity to supplement the other training offered to public school students.

Taught Protecting God's Children to undergraduate education students at Felician College in order to position them to do student teaching at Catholic schools. This supplements what we are doing annually at Seton Hall. They have already signed up for another one during the next audit year.

Offered developmental training to Local Safe Environment Coordinators and Facilitators: Internet Predator session sponsored by NCMEC, Robert Hugh Farley in the Trenton Diocese, and two sessions as part of the national Take 25 initiative and National Missing Childrens' Day.

Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey (*Continued*)

Conferences

Attended both the National Safe Environment Conference in July in San Francisco, and the Virtus Coordinator Conference in Chicago in August, in an attempt to share best practices and learn the newest research and thinking.

Policies & Procedures

As of January 1, 2013, new policies require all volunteers to be rescreened every 5 years, and retrained every 3 years. This year being the first, there are many people who fall under this new policy. The specifics are: If a volunteer had a LexisNexis background check before 1/1/09, they need to be rechecked before 12/31/2013. If anyone had Protecting God's Children training before 1/1/2010, they need to do something to update their skills before 12/31/2013. There are multiple ways to do this, both in-person and online.

Archdiocese of New Orleans, Louisiana

Training

We are offering training sessions to Senior/Grandparent organizations in the parishes and schools.

Archbishop Aymond taped a message to the young children of the Archdiocese regarding child protection. They will use this for training of children.

Policies & Procedures

We implemented an Anti-Bullying Policy which is found on the Safe Environment page of our website.

Cooperation with local organizations

We are a member of the New Orleans Metropolitan Child Abuse Prevention Coalition – on the committee for Faith Based prevention programs.

Trees for Life – we received a tree in memory of one of the 42 children in Louisiana who died as a direct result of abuse. Given to us for the work we do in the prevention of abuse. Archbishop Aymond has 4 trees in his yard with blue ribbons on them – each given in the past 4 years in April.

Member of the teen committee for Crimestoppers; currently co-chair of the committee.

Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota

Policies & Procedures

Diocese has formulated a policy regarding internet usage of clergy of the diocese, which addresses the issue of child pornography. This policy has been drafted and revised in close consultation with the Diocesan Review Board, and will be implemented in the coming year.

Diocese of Norwich, Connecticut

Policies & Procedures

A new diocesan policy has been written; *Diocese of Norwich Electronic Communications, Internet, and Computer Use Policy*. This policy was approved and promulgated by Bishop Cote on January 28, 2013, with an effective date of March 1, 2013. This policy was distributed to all diocesan agencies and Order Provincials; was posted on the diocesan web site; and is included in the Armatus online training program.

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

Communication

A brochure was produced by the Office for Safe Environments, entitled “Guiding God’s Children in Faith Environments”. It was distributed to all parishes, schools, diocesan institutions and ministries.

The director of the Office for Safe Environments participated in a Ministry Fair, sponsored by the Diocesan Development Office in conjunction with the Annual Catholic Appeal. Each ministry was afforded the opportunity to promote their office’s work at a gathering for Annual Catholic Appeal donors.

Conferences

The Bishop’s Delegate for Safe Environments and the Director of the Office for Safe Environments attended a webinar on October 1, 2012. The Allegations and Audits Webinar was sponsored by the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection. The daylong conference included presentations by Bishop Conlon and Bishop Cupich, as well as nine other presenters. It was very informative and covered a wide range of topics.

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Training

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, on April 9, 2013, we focused on the “RECLAiM: *Sexual Health Catholic Recovery Program*”. This program, which is Catholic in its approach, is an internet based program targeting people who have an addiction to pornography. We had over 200 in attendance in the course of the day. The morning session was for Parish Facilitators and Youth Ministers. The afternoon session was for the priests of the Archdiocese and an evening session focused on Permanent Deacons and youth ministers who could not come during the day. In addition, the morning session also addressed the topic of “Teens and Texting: Are They Revealing Too Much?” Written evaluations of the presentations were extremely positive indicating that the program was well received and helpful.

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. For additional information contact Pat Koenig, 405-751-5651, ext. 126, pkoenig@archokc.org.

Technology Curriculum -- The Technology Curriculum which includes internet safety and abuse prevention information and training is offered to all Catholic School children. The Curriculum is available to all parents on the Archdiocesan website under: Chancery Offices; Education; Schools; Curriculum. The Technology Curriculum has been well-received by parents and students. For additional information please contact Dr. Cris Carter, 405-721-5651, ext. 101, ccarter@archokc.org.

Technology Guidelines for Pastoral Work with Young People are provided. 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 of Religious Education and Youth and Young Adult Ministry formed a committee for the initial work. Parishes are working on compliance with the guidelines and informing new employees about the guidelines. For additional information please contact Pat Koenig, 405-751-5651, ext. 126, pkoenig@archokc.org.

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (*Continued*)

Cooperation with local organizations

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. 2013 was the fifth year for this effort. The focus of the committee is to expand the number of faith based communities involved in Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities and Day at the Capitol. For additional information please contact Jennifer Goodrich, Victim Assistance Coordinator, Office of Safe Environment, jgoodrich@archokc.org or Sister Catherine Powers, CND, Safe Environment Coordinator, 721-5651 (ext. 150), cpowers@archokc.org.

2012 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 2012, the Archdiocese offered scholarships to participants (need based). Each year the Conference focuses on various aspects of this wide-spread problem. Lisa Carraso, from our Office of Family Life, is very involved in the planning of this annual conference. For more information please contact Lisa Carasco, Office of Family Life, 405-721-5651, ext. 108, lcarraso@archokc.org.

Outreach

In-Service Assistance – Each year the Program Director of “Oklahoma Interviewing Services, Inc.” assists us in providing in-service for new teachers and parish facilitators. Maria Rosales-Lambert is a bi-lingual Forensic Interviewer who works very closely with children who have been abused. She is an excellent resource person whom we can call upon at any time. For further information please contact Sister Catherine Powers, CND, Safe Environment Coordinator, 405-721-5651, ext. 150, cpowers@archokc.org.

Suicide Prevention Task Force - In the Fall of 2012 a Suicide Prevention Task Force was established. The Task Force was made up of representatives of Catholic Charities, the Catholic School Office, the Office of Religious Education, the Office of Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry. This group met monthly to address the need for a suicide prevention program and a response intervention strategy. A group of ten (10) people were trained in the “Life Line Trilogy Program”. This program includes prevention, intervention and post-vention strategies. For further information contact, Dr. Cris Carter, Superintendent of Schools, 405-721-5651, ext. 101, ccarter@archokc.org.

Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska

Conferences

The Archdiocese of Omaha and the Diocese of Grand Island were co chairs for the national SEVAC leadership conference (August 2012) hosted by both dioceses.

Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska (*Continued*)

Cooperation with local organizations

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

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

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

The Archdiocese of Omaha developed a protestant version of *Circle of Grace*. Over 600 protestant churches in the US and Canada 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.

Training

The Archdiocese of Omaha’s PATH (*Pornography, Awareness Truth and Healing*) Task Force disseminated prevention materials at the archdiocese’s men’s conference, parishes and schools.

The Archdiocese of Omaha has made available to other archdiocese/diocese its children/youth prevention program *Circle of Grace* for a reasonable fee. Twenty one (arch) dioceses are currently using the program. The Archdiocese is committed to assisting those who have purchased the program with successful implementation. The Pre K- Grade 12 curriculum has been updated with five additional teen lessons.

The archdiocese developed an adult safe environment program called *Circle of Care*. 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. One other diocese purchased the program this audit year.

Diocese of Orange, California

Conferences

Safe Environment Coordinator, Victims Assistance Coordinator and Chancellor participated in the 2013 National Safe Environment Conference, San Francisco.

Diocese of Orange, California (*Continued*)

Communication

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.

Diocese of Orlando, Florida

Training

The Office of Schools, in collaboration with the Victim Assistance Coordinator and the Diocesan Lawyer presented information to all of the school principals on the definition of and dangers of "sexting". This presentation informed the school administrative staff of the dangers of internet.

The Office of Outreach and Prevention, in collaboration with Catholic Charities held a Priest Symposium on "Beyond the Confessional" offering information and resources on three 'Safe Environment' topics:

- The dangers of internet additions and pornography.
- Domestic Violence
- Suicide Awareness

Diocese of Palm Beach, Florida

Cooperation with local organizations

During this audit year we have established a relationship with the National Center for MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN. They have a presence in our Diocese, by that I mean a physical location right here in the Diocese of Palm Beach. We met with Nancy McBride the National Safety Director and Ed Russo our local representative. They will be working with us in the training of Catechists particularly in parish programs to assist them in and the parents with the materials. One of our DRE's, she is a VIRTUS trainer and classroom teacher uses their materials is consulting with them.

Mrs. Johansen is also working with the people from VIRTUS on the updating of their children's materials.

Diocese of Palm Beach, Florida (*Continued*)

Training

During the last audit period we mentioned in our additional actions that we had conducted a Survey in our Diocesan schools regarding the use of technology by students in the home. It was in response to the growing trends of predators on the Internet and that young people are unsupervised at home on computers and on newer more sophisticated phones. This year we shared results with: Educators, Parents, and nationally at NCEA in April (7000 Educators). Our Committee of Educators from each school came up with the plan to take the one of the concerns (Cyberbullying, bullying) back to their schools, held contests and winners came to Rally in April where they each received a Certificate from the Bishop. Over 500 in attendance: young people, parents, grandparents. Theme: "Stand Up To Bullying" Sponsors from the community.

During the audit year of 2010-2011 we had conducted the CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS Serving Today's Church (Communicating a Deeper Understanding of Ministerial Boundaries and the Emerging Role of the Internet) for the priests of our Diocese. This audit year we continued on with that by doing it with the Permanent Deacons in our Diocese. Mrs. Johansen went to NY for further training and came back and trained some of our Facilitators and we conducted 2 Sessions for a total of 80 of the Permanent Deacons in the Diocese. We will finish up with the "snowbirds" and the newly ordained Deacons after the first of the year. Our goal for this year also, is to first do the Coaches from the schools and then the Youth Ministers due to the growing concerns with regard to "boundaries" and also the use of the internet.

Policies & Procedures

This year we developed a Parish Program for our Parish Outreach Ministers in response to our Province Guidelines with regard to the Background Screening for Vulnerable Adults.

Diocese of Paterson, New Jersey

Policies & Procedures

Developed and distributed a Child Protection Coordinators Manual (attached to the email) for all local coordinators at parishes, schools and agencies. The manual includes step by step instructions along with samples and FAQ's. In addition, it is posted at an internal Diocesan website.

The diocese developed and implemented a Social Media Policy in March 2013 (attached to the email). It is available on the Diocese's internal website.

Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida

Policies & Procedures

Establishment of yearly Parish/School self-assessment guide to be completed and signed by Pastors and Principals. A copy is sent to the Office of Safe Environment so as to provide any assistance needed from the Office of Safe Environment.

Outreach

Established a Spanish speaking Victims Assistance Coordinator for those whose primary language is Spanish.

Communication

In the process of creating a new user friendly diocesan website to assist individuals in finding the correct information on what steps to take to become compliant with the Bishops Charter in order to be employed or volunteer with children or vulnerable adults.

Began auditing parish and school websites for correct information on the Bishops Charter and how they provide what steps to take to their volunteers.

Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Communication

OCYP conducted parish forums providing information to parishioners regarding Archdiocesan policies, steps taken to protect children and the process once an allegation has been received.

The OCYP developed a new website with a direct URL and a link from the Archdiocesan website. The website was designed to provide information to victims, staff and volunteers, parishioners, parents and interested parties. Additionally, OCYP developed new brochures and resource materials. Both the website and resource materials are available in both English and Spanish. OCYP began releasing a quarterly newsletter highlighting safe environment and victim assistance program activities as well as providing resources and information related to victimization and protecting children. An outreach letter was sent to all victims (currently and formerly engaged in services) providing an executive summary of the updated policies as well as program updates and information.

Outreach

OCYP in collaboration with the Archdiocesan Senior Citizens Council created a “Healing Quilt” made up of individual prayer squares that were crocheted by seniors in the Archdiocese. The individual square represent hours of prayers for victims of sexual abuse. Individual squares are offered to victims.

Archeparchy of Philadelphia for Ukrainians

Communication

In April of 2013, the Archeparchy participated in the National Abuse Prevention month. Our office prepared materials to be published in the parish bulletins, newsletters and the archieparchial newspaper “The Way” to raise awareness about abuse of children happening in the society and provide useful information on how to detect and report any reasonable suspicions of abuse to the child protective and law enforcement agencies.

Outreach

St. Michael the Archangel parish in Cherry Hill, NJ, hosted a lecture by Dawn Eden and presentation of her book on spirituality of healing for victims of abuse, *My Peace I Give You: Healing Sexual Wounds with the Help of the Saints* and *The Thrill of the Chaste: Finding Fulfillment While Keeping Your Clothes On*. It was advertised in local newspapers and parish bulletins.

Diocese of Phoenix, Arizona

Cooperation with local organizations

- 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 and the Office of Child and Youth Protection participated in the revision of the Maricopa County Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse.
- The Safe Environment Training Office met with Detective Toni Brown and the Foundation for Senior Living to discuss “Vulnerable Adult” prevention policies and programs.
- Hosted the GPCAPC Conference and Awards Luncheon. Keynote: James Sporleder, Principal of renowned Lincoln High School in Walla Walla, Washington. Topic: “*ACE’s in Action: Next Steps in Arizona*” on April 25, 2013.
- Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities:
 - Celebrated Mass at the Diocese of Phoenix Pastoral Center on April 26, 2013 for the intention of Child Abuse Prevention Month.
 - Partnered with Phoenix Children’s Hospital on “Innocence Revolution” planning and events. This included:
 - Bulletin/newsletter announcements and abuse prevention resource list distributed to all Parishes and Schools. Each location was asked to communicate this information during the month of April.
 - Included a link on the Diocesan webpage with the Innocence Revolution events.

Conferences

- 8/12-16/12 – 2012 National Safe Environment Victim Assistance Coordinator Leadership Conference, Omaha NE.
- 8/16-17/12 – Ninth Annual Conference for VIRTUS Program Coordinators, Omaha, NE.
- 10/1/12 – Attended the USCCB Webinar “10 Years of Keeping Our Promise to Protect.”
- 11/8/12 – Attended “Train to Unchain” – Domestic Sex Trafficking Awareness Training.
- 12/18/12 – Attended “Cybersafety 2012 Workshop” by Detective Frank Griffiths, Scottsdale Police Department
- 5/2–30/13 Six week 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.
- 5/14/13 - Creating Safe Churches and Schools” – Presenter: Rachel Mitchell, Chief of Sex Crimes Division, Maricopa County Attorney’s Office.

Training

July 2012 – 55 Minute Safe Environment Training course implemented: Reporting: What You Need to Know®. Reporting: What You Need to Know® was produced by the Diocese of Phoenix with the assistance of Great Scott Productions. A Participant Guide was also developed that contains information as it relates to the message in the DVD to assist the facilitators when delivering the module. Through illustrated scenarios, a true story, and a panel discussion this video provides examples of when and why reporting to authorities is necessary. This session also walks through the steps to make a report to law enforcement and Child Protective Services. Upon completion, participants will have the tools necessary to make that often challenging, but most crucial step, toward protecting a child.

Eparchy of Phoenix, Arizona

Policies & Procedures

Our policy for the continuance and updating of Background checks is now mandated for every 5 years. A letter is sent to those necessitating an update is sent to the persons involved. Each Pastor and/or Parish Safe Environment Coordinator also receives a copy of each person, stating their dates of background checks and the Safe Environment Formation classes that they have attended.

Diocese of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Communication

Copies of the USCCB Charter booklet (Revised in 2011) were mailed to pastors/administrators, school principals and heads of central administration offices with instructions to review the revisions to the Charter and to order additional copies through the USCCB Publications Office as needed for staff and pamphlet racks. Parish staff appreciated receiving the complimentary Charter booklets.

Policies & Procedures

Effective 11/19/2012 the Code of Pastoral Conduct and Child Protective Services Law of Pennsylvania booklets (previously mailed or distributed to applicants) were added to the online safe environment database application under Document Review. Employees and volunteers can now read both documents online and electronically sign the acknowledgement of receipt (confirming that they have read and agree) when completing the application. The signature dates are automatically recorded in the parish/school database Workshop Dates Quick Entry file. The electronic posting makes compliance more convenient for applicant's, saves site administrators valuable time and will result in a significant financial savings by not having to incur future printing costs. Responses from applicant's and site administrators have been very positive.

Effective 11/19/2012 a monthly database email alert is sent on or near the first day of each month to site administrators with one or more non-compliant applicant(s) in their database as the primary "P" site. The email alert serves as a reminder to the site administrator that the applicant(s) has either a missing compliance date from their file or the applicant(s) have a background check that will expire in 30 or 60 days. The site administrator can easily print a report from the database showing the applicant(s) name(s) and what action needs to be taken and allows the site administrator to process a new background check(s) before the documents are five (5) years old and no longer valid. Site administrators very much appreciate this monthly reminder that has proven to be a very effective tool for managing their database and maintaining employees/volunteers compliance.

Diocese of Reno, Nevada

Communication

The Diocese of Reno continued during this year to provide public service announcements for use on the radio. These are used four times each year, usually coinciding with the beginning and end of the school year, Christmas holidays and the month of April "Child Abuse Awareness Month". The spots focused on raising awareness of child abuse and reporting it.

This year we also continued to send bulletin announcements to the parishes during the month of April focused on abuse, child safety and reporting processes.

Diocese of Reno, Nevada (*Continued*)

Training

Our local Catholic High School invited a presenter to speak to students about abstinence, personal safety and boundaries. The prior evening the parents were invited to hear the speaker. The parents of children in the Catholic Middle Schools were also invited to the evening talk. There was tremendously positive response from the adults who were present. We hope to have a similar presentation again this year to include Middle School Parents.

Diocese of Richmond, Virginia

Communication

Various Pastoral Center offices worked together to begin to offer yearly regional meetings with business managers and pastors to discuss various diocesan topics to include safe environment compliance. Last audit period 5 meetings were held in various regions of the diocese.

Safe environment compliance information has been included in the bi-monthly HR newsletter. This communication tool has proven to be of value in offering reminders to the locations as to what is required for safe environment compliance for the employee and the parish and school volunteer.

Diocese of Rockford, Illinois

Training

Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, the Diocese of Rockford expanded its safe environment program to now provide in both English and Spanish simplified instruction in safe environment to its pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students. The program is called "Keeping Myself Safe."

Communication

In January 2013, the Diocese of Rockford made video presentation by the Vicar General/Misconduct Officer, Reverend Msgr. Eric R. Barr, on how the Catholic Church has responded to the abuse scandal, and posted the video on you tube, for easy access by interested individuals. The link to the 2013 you tube video is found on the home page of the Diocese of Rockford web site. The Diocese produced a similar video in 2010.

Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York

Training

Launched the *Critical Conversations* program with all diocesan Leadership: Aux. Bishops, Diocesan Department Heads, Deans of the various deaneries throughout the Diocese of Rockville Centre. This program is essentially an educational program for priests, deacons, and lay ministers utilizing best practice adult learning theory to challenge and motivate the leadership to challenge inappropriate behavior and interrupt it. We also invited several other dioceses to participate in this program.

Diocese of Sacramento, California

Policies & Procedures

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

Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan

Cooperation with local organizations

The Diocese of Saginaw continues to cooperate with other community agencies and welcomes their additional materials on how to keep children and youth safe. This year, an excellent booklet was provided by the CAN (Child Abuse and Neglect) Council from the Great Lakes Bay Region. The booklet was: SOS ~ Safer ~ Older ~ Smarter / Personal Safety Activity Book for Parents and Kids. This booklet was used in our Catholic schools in addition to the Child Lures Prevention Program.

Diocese of San Angelo, Texas

Communication

The diocese has 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.

Policies & Procedures

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.

Diocese of San Jose, California

Conferences

Annual 2013 NSECVAC Conference: The Diocese of San Jose, along with the Archdiocese of San Francisco, the Diocese of Oakland, and the Diocese of Santa Rosa, co-sponsored and helped plan the annual National Safe Environment Coordinator and Victims Assistance Coordinator's Conference (NSECVAC) in Burlingame, California. Both Bishops McGrath and Daly attended the July 14 – 17th conference, as well as the Vicar General, the Chancellor, the HR Director, the SEC, and the VAC.

Diocese of San Jose, California (*Continued*)

Cooperation with local organizations

During the audit period 2012 – 2013, OPCVA staff collaborated with several city and county advisory groups and agencies. The presence of staff on these agencies broadened the offices' expertise and awareness. It also increased visibility of the Diocese of San Jose in the area of Safe Environment and afforded greater opportunities for further collaboration with other participating professionals and organizations. Participation included:

- San Jose Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (Member: Enrique Flores, former OPCVA Director)
- Santa Clara County Elder Abuse Prevention Task Force (Members: Enrique Flores, former OPCVA Director and Griselda Cervantez, Victims Assistance Coordinator)
- Santa Clara County Suicide Prevention Task Force (Members: Enrique Flores, former OPCVA Director and Griselda Cervantez, Victims Assistance Coordinator)
- Santa Clara County Department of Social Services (Katy Meister, as Safe Environment Coordinator, "trained the trainers" on teaching mandated reporting.)

During the audit period 2012 – 2013, Katy Meister, as Safe Environment Coordinator, and Griselda Cervantez, as Victim Assistance Coordinator, provided Safe Environment training to the private (non-Diocesan) elementary and secondary schools.

Communication

Safe Environment Articles and Cartoons in The Valley Catholic: In September 2012, Katy Meister, SEC, began writing a monthly column, called "Katy the Safety Lady" for *The Valley Catholic*, the Diocesan newspaper. Directed toward children and their parents, the articles contain tips on child safety, bullying, Internet use, and conversation starters for families. The editor receives regular reader requests for more articles and cartoons. Feedback includes comments that content gives a realistic view of the Catholic viewpoint and outreach on Safe Environment and is useful, relevant, and practical. *The Valley Catholic* is mailed to all registered Catholic households in the Diocese of San Jose. It also is available online.

Training

S.A.F.E. Project: OPCVA sponsored the first annual Safe-Alert-Family-Expression (S.A.F.E.) Project Event for children and families on April 30, 2013. The purpose was for children to promote safety awareness through artistic talent, essays, or speech. Children participated through their schools, religious education classes, and individually. All participants received prizes, as did teachers whose students participated in the event. Nine schools participated in the contest. Several hundred children in these schools and in parish religious education classes submitted entries such as coloring pages, posters, and essays. The first S.A.F.E. Project Event at Our Lady of Peace Parish featured 12 stage presentations, and the enthusiasm of the children and parents present at the event was high. *The Valley Catholic* reported on the event in its June 25, 2013, issue. The office plans to present this event next year and hopes for greater participation.

Diocese of San Jose, California (*Continued*)

Outreach

Staffing Increase: In September 2012, OPCVA requested and received approval to hire Griselda Cervantez as a part time Victims Assistance Coordinator. She regularly works 6 – 8 hours per week. Prior to that, the position was contracted on an on-call basis. Reaction has been favorable, especially now that the office has someone who is bilingual in English and Spanish, available regularly, knowledgeable, and familiar with cases. She is also more visible to parishioners through her Spanish Safe Environment workshops.

Policies & Procedures

In December 2012, Bishop McGrath strengthened fingerprinting requirements to include all adults working with minors or vulnerable adults, whether in a supervised or unsupervised capacity. He also required that all volunteer personnel be checked against Megan's List annually. Prior to this date, the Diocese of San Jose required fingerprinting of only those adults working with minors or vulnerable adults in an unsupervised capacity.

New Tracking Database: As the Human Resources Department has been transitioning to a new HR information system called Workday, OPCVA received approval to utilize the system to report and track clergy, employee, and volunteer Safe Environment requirements. The system will add more identifying information to personnel records such as date of birth, address, phone numbers, and e-mail address. The added information, which will be kept securely, will make it easier to match requirements to the correct persons. It also will give the parishes the added ability to enter training information from personnel when they receive certificates of completion, rather than wait for Chancery personnel to enter the dates.

Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico

Communication

I have written several articles on Child Protection and what our Archdiocese is doing to further safe environments in all of our parishes. These articles have been published on the website and in the People of God newspaper for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

Diocese of Santa Rosa, California

Conferences

The Director for the diocesan Child and Youth Protection office sat on the planning committee for the National Conference for SEC and VAC. Once the conference was held in Omaha, Santa Rosa became one of the co-hosting dioceses for the July 2013 conference. The Director then helped to organize and plan the conference for the summer of 2013.

Diocese of Santa Rosa, California

Policies & Procedures

The diocese of Santa Rosa required all employees to complete the safe environment training a few years ago. This year we began requiring criminal background checks of all employees. Additionally we have begun to direct our parish safe environment coordinators to look outside of the traditional volunteer roles and background check those that would be regarded as 'safe' by the children they come in contact with. This would include Eucharistic ministers, Lectors, etc.

Diocese of San Bernardino, California

Outreach

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. 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

Communication

In conjunction with April – “Prevent Child Abuse” month -- we again used a four page color advertisement that “wraps” our local Catholic newspaper, *Catholic San Francisco*. The ad provided essentials on reporting abuse, information about the Independent Review Board, data on our Seven Point Outreach program, and showed the art of the winners of our art contest for children. We invite the children in our schools and in our parish religious education programs, to create and contribute art that shows what they have learned about the principles of providing for one’s own safety. Art of the winners was included in the annual four page color ad in Catholic San Francisco. The teachers and children love the contest, and the use of the four pages to extol the winners is well received.

Conferences

Our Archdiocese was the lead of four dioceses hosting the annual conference for Safe Environment and Victim Assistance Coordinators. While the conference was not held in the current audit year, the planning and preparation were done this year. This conference is the first we know of that included panel discussions and one of those was a panel of survivors, facilitated by Bishop Robert McElroy. The use of survivors in the program we believe to be a first as well. We also had a survivor support organization as one of the exhibitors in the exhibitor’s hall. All three of our staff were involved in the planning, and all three attended the conference.

Archdiocese of San Francisco, California (*Continued*)

Policies & Procedures

We introduced the “cycling” of both demographic background checks and adult training, going to a three year cycle for both. We are currently engaged in a year-long transition process to re-train and re-evaluate all those whose dates are prior to January 1, 2011.

A new policy was announced this past spring by the Rector of Saint Patrick’s Seminary to all seminarians, in response to a request from the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Seminarians were asked to bring our *Letter of Good Standing* form, provided by the seminary, to the attention of their own bishops when they were home for the summer. Their bishops must now complete and return the attestation for each seminarian annually. This will bring every seminarian from every diocese into a higher level of compliance with Archdiocese of San Francisco standards. They have already been required to be fingerprinted and take safe environment training if they are studying for San Francisco, so this is an extension on our work to protect children.

The clergy database has been significantly enhanced again this year. Additional funds were invested in the work of our database consultant, Sonya Hunter, this past fiscal year, to add improvements to the database in the areas of compliance and immigration. Photos of international clergy, and additional details of their backgrounds, have been added to the database, since the movement of international priests in and out of the Archdiocese requires close attention for the protection of children. Additional reports have been created to address our need to quickly access information about international priests.

Diocese of Savannah, Georgia

Policies & Procedures

Completed a visit/audit of every pastor, principal, and key points of contact of our 78 diocesan parishes and 15 diocesan schools (approximately 5,000 miles of travel).

In addition to the continuing education provided diocesan personnel via the VIRTUS website, an added requirement of a safe environment refresher training packet has been prepared for review/signature every five years by employees and volunteers to maintain certification for ministering to minors. Presently awaiting translation to Spanish prior to posting on diocesan website.

Cooperation with other organizations

Served as co-panelist with John Rabun, former VP and COO of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, on safe environment issues in religious entities at First Baptist Church of Savannah.

Communication

Published an information article on safe environment topics in every issue of the monthly diocesan pastoral bulletin and initiated a twitter account for the diocesan Child Protection Office.

Conferences

Office Director and/or Safe Environment Coordinator attended the following conferences, seminars, meetings: National Safe Environment & Victim Assistance Coordinators Leadership Conference; Annual VIRTUS Conference; Coastal Children's Advocacy Center workshop on Juvenile Molesters.

Archdiocese of Seattle, Washington

Training

Protecting Our Neighbors: Abuse Prevention of Vulnerable Adults. Research and production of online abuse prevention course; produced in-house. Content includes:

- Information about Vulnerable Adult Abuse
- How to report abuse
- Who is at risk to be abused? Who is at risk to abuse another?
- Best Practices in specific archdiocesan ministries serving vulnerable adults. Ie: Communion to Homebound, Prison Ministry, etc.
- How to get help if you are a vulnerable person being abused.
- Required course for clergy, employees and volunteers with ongoing unsupervised access to minor and vulnerable adults.

New SEC Mentoring Program: Creation of New SEC Mentoring Program for all new SECs in every diocese who wish to participate. New SEC's will be paired with an "experienced" SEC (aka "mentors") to help answer questions and offer support. Development/set-up of program during audit period. Will be implemented in Fall 2013.

Conferences

Planning Team for National Safe Environment Victim Assistance Conference: part of planning team for the NSEVAC Conference: participated in monthly conference calls to assist with planning and coordination of conference. Coordinated regional outreach to every SEC and VAC in every diocese.

Pacific Northwest SEC Conference Call: Monthly conference call for the Safe Environment Coordinators in the Pacific Northwest area (Region XII). Call is hosted by the Archdiocese of Seattle and is organized and facilitated by Seattle SEC. Conference call is also used to disseminate information from SCYP and National Conference.

Washington State's 9th Annual Vulnerable Adult Abuse Conference – October 2012: "Abuse of Elders & Adults with Disabilities: A Focus on Our Diverse Communities" - Safe Environment Program Coordinator attended conference in order to integrate additional material about Vulnerable Adult Abuse and adults with disabilities into Safe Environment trainings; also used information from conference to evaluate existing policies & procedures based on new data and research.

Archdiocese of Seattle, Washington (*Continued*)

Cooperation with local organizations

Advocacy for legislation strengthening child protection in public schools in Washington State. SB 5563 - Regarding training for school employees in the prevention of sexual abuse. SEC testified three times in front of both the State Senate and State House of Representatives on issue, including importance and effectiveness of abuse prevention training in public schools. Bill also includes “human trafficking” to reporting guidelines and prevention training, as well as renewing abuse prevention training regularly. Signed into law, 17 April 2013.

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center Interfaith Group – monthly through June 2013: The Interfaith Group served as a resource for leadership of all denominations in King County area regarding abuse prevention and managing sex offenders in faith communities. 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.

King County Elder Abuse Council – ongoing: The Safe Environment Program Coordinator acts as 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”. Part of work addressed by council this year: reporting of abuse & service referrals by first responders; 211/Crisis Clinic online resources; Enrollment of seniors & vulnerable people into new Medicare under the Affordable Care Act.

Sponsored 11th Annual Interfaith Symposium for Safe and Responsible Ministry – January 2013: “Be LOUD: Ending the silence of sexual violence in the faith community.” 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.

Policies & Procedures

Promulgation of Archdiocesan Social Media Policies, Spring 2013: Implemented archdiocesan policies regarding the use of Social Media in parishes, schools and programs. Policies promulgated, Spring 2013. Special emphasis in policies and training regarding Social Media and Minors. Developed training materials to distribute to parishes & schools regarding SEP & social media.

Vulnerable Adult Abuse Awareness Month - October 2012: Special “October Vulnerable Adult Abuse Awareness” banner was posted on home page of Archdiocese of Seattle which linked back to a special Vulnerable Adult section on Safe Environment website.

Archdiocese of Seattle, Washington (*Continued*)

Communication

Child Abuse Prevention Month – April 2013: Resources and Materials sent to parishes, schools and programs of Archdiocese of Seattle. Packet, in English and Spanish, included:

- Bulletin Announcements with SEP information to accompany the weekly readings
- General Intercessions and Music Suggestions for Liturgies
- Safe Environment Links & Resources
- “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.
- Ideas & Inspirations from other parishes & schools on ways to promote SEP and abuse prevention.
- Every archdiocesan office around Chancery campus displayed Blue Pinwheels to increase awareness of Child Abuse Prevention.
- Special “April Child Abuse Prevention Month” Banner was 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.

Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania

Communication

After a comprehensive review, and in consultation with the Diocesan Review Board, in April 2013, Bishop Bambera promulgated a revised Diocesan Policy for Response to Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors. The intention of the revised Diocesan policy is to continue our commitment to be in conformity with the provisions of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the Essential Norms for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors and the Statement of Episcopal Commitment; to ensure that our responses to accusations of sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults by clergy, religious, employees and volunteers are swift and appropriate; to provide support and services to those affected; to report accusations to proper authorities in compliance with state law and regulations and to cooperate fully in any investigation. Upon promulgation of the revised diocesan policy, Bishop Bambera scheduled a series of regional trainings on the revised diocesan policy and mandated that every member of the clergy attend one of the scheduled trainings. In addition, a copy of the revised diocesan policy was forwarded to every Pennsylvania legislator in federal or state government and to every District Attorney and County Children and Youth Administrator who covers a district or county within the Diocese of Scranton’s eleven county footprint.

Diocese of Shreveport, Louisiana

Training

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.

Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa

Policies & Procedures

This year our SEC conducted regional audit training meetings for 37 of our local Coordinators. These trainings consisted of reviewing the quarterly audit reports for each parish or school represented. We implemented the quarterly audit report requirement in all 184 of our locations and will continue to schedule onsite visits and audit training meetings for the remaining local Coordinators who did not participate during the 2013 audit year.

The Office of Safe Environment developed an enhanced reporting system of reporting on compliance, not only to our locations, but also to our bishop. The reports provide our bishop a more complete overview of Charter compliance across our diocese, and give him an opportunity to recognize those locations that are in full compliance with the Charter. A policy statement is currently being reviewed that will state the requirements for Charter compliance and the consequences for those locations who are not in compliance.

Conferences

The diocese invited and paid for all members of our Diocesan Review Board to attend a local seminar conducted by the Mercy Child Advocacy Center, from whom we contract our VAC services.

Diocese of Spokane, Washington

Outreach

Some parishes offer weekly prayer for victims and abusers; the Diocese and the parishes of the diocese reach beyond abuse of minors and provide contact information for adult victims and domestic violence situations.

Training

To raise awareness about abuse issues the Diocese initiated “Critical Conversation” training making it mandatory for all clergy, employees and volunteers who minister to children/youth. The Critical Conversation process is supplemental to the formal Safe Environment Training program.

Diocese of Springfield, Illinois

Policies & Procedures

On July 1, 2012, The Most Reverend Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki promulgated a new policy that all volunteers, regardless of regular contact with children, would be required to attend safe environment training and conduct a criminal and DCFS CANTS background screen. This new policy exceeds what is required by the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. The policy change was initially met with mixed reactions and emotions, however, the majority agreeing with the policy change and requirements. Those that did not agree with the change and chose not to comply with the new requirements were asked to refrain from volunteering or working in any capacity in the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois. Education continues from the parish and the diocesan level as to the changes made to the policy and the requirements, and is done as a means to encourage those who refuse or are adjusting to the new requirements.

Diocese of St. Cloud, Minnesota

Communication

This past year the brochure “How to Report Abuse” was translated into Spanish.

Training

A special training was developed for several parishes where an incident of hazing had occurred in the public school district. This training was well received by the students, parents, and parish leadership.

Eparchy of St. George in Canton, Ohio

Training

Safe Environment Coordinator, Ann Fosnaught, became a facilitator of the Virtus’ Protecting God’s Children for Adults on March 21, 2013. This will help to make sure that all people in the Diocese have the opportunity to be trained even if they do not live in a Roman Diocese that trains people with Virtus. Also, it allows us to train our foreign priests who may not reside in the United States.

Conferences

Safe Environment Coordinator, Ann Fosnaught, participated in the Ohio Safe Environment Coordinators’ meeting on May 24, 2013. Being new to the position, I learned from their invaluable experience.

Fr. Ovidiu Marginean and Ann Fosnaught participated in Allegations and Audit Webinar on October 1, 2012.

Cooperation with local organizations

Corresponded with local authorities to keep lines of communication open.

Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri

Policies & Procedures

This year the Archdiocese approved a new policy requiring the retraining of Employees and volunteers. We began to roll out online training renewals through VIRTUS. We are now requiring all volunteers and employees to update their child protective training after a period of five years using an online module entitled “Keeping the Promise Alive”. All individuals will still be required to attend their first training session in person. So far we have retrained roughly 200 employees. We also expanded monthly continuing education through VIRTUS to include theology students at Kenrick Glennon Seminary. (For the past two years all priests and Deacons have been required to complete monthly continuing education).

This year through our Child Safety Committee, a new protocol was put into place to address the process when placing a hotline call to the State of Missouri. The protocol outlines steps to be taken in the event that a hotline call should be placed. Once the hotline call is placed, the caller must send documentation of the call to General Counsel to archive. If an individual is uncertain if a hotline call should be placed, they are directed to call Phil Hengen or General Counsel to determine next steps.

Archdiocese of St. Paul – Minneapolis, Minnesota

Policies & Procedures

Although the Archdiocese updated its “Acceptable Use and Responsibility Policy for Electronic communications” and formalized its “Social Media Policy and Protocol” template and the accompanying “Certification, Acknowledgement and Authorization for Consent and Release Form for Social Media or Other Electronic Communication involving Minors” template on April 18, 2012, the templates were not actually implemented in parishes and schools until the 2012 – 2013 program year. The templates were developed in response to our parish and school leaders requesting more clarity around social media policies and procedures. Located on the Archdiocese’s webpage, they are easily accessible to all those who are interested in using newer communication tools in their ministries and wish to know how the Archdiocese expects the tools to be used by church leaders.

This is the first year we used a Mid-Year Audit Report for parishes and/or schools who experienced significant challenges meeting the Archdiocese’s safe environment expectations. It appears that this was an effective means to proactively monitor and help the sites because only one site continues to be experiencing significant challenges for a second consecutive year.

Training

During the 2012 – 2013 program year, our curriculum resources for children and youth were strengthened through our collaborative efforts with the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children’s Training and Education Coordinator and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children’s National Outreach & Partnerships Senior Manager. As a result, our parishes and schools have received free lesson plans and video resources.

Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida

Training

In May, our diocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry added a full-time Associate Director of Hispanic Ministries to its staff. One of the goals which the Associate Director has begun to implement is the addition of trainers and Safe Environment Program training opportunities in Spanish, for the increasing number of Spanish-speaking staff members and volunteers. This will allow those who require training in Spanish to attain their certification and engage in ministry sooner.

Diocese of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Training

A great number of youth were trained in Child Protection for Adults, so that they too have this knowledge to help themselves or others if needed. One of the Pastors wanted the youth he was taking to the Pro-Life March in Washington DC to have this knowledge.

Diocese of Syracuse, New York

Communication

The Syracuse Diocese published its inaugural C&YP/Safe Environment Annual Report in April 2013 emphasizing the USCCB Charter, its purpose, and our shared commitment to child and youth protection. This report will be released annually as testimony to our promise of vigilance, dedication to restore, and our responsibility to all God's children.

The Safe Environment Office designed and distributed parish and school annual planning calendars. These documents outline the timeline of events for each fiscal year providing sites with an at-a-glance accounting of their administrative responsibilities in child & youth protection.

The Syracuse Diocese C&YP Office designed and distributed to sites updated Diocesan C&YP posters using the vibrant and recognizable USCCB graphic design. 911 Reporting is highlighted in this new communication piece. In addition, both the VAC and SEC offices were detailed on the poster face.

This fiscal year the Syracuse Diocese C&YP Office expanded its annual Site Coordinator administration training to include the Parish Business Administrators. Through collaborative efforts, the Office is assisting all sites in incorporating all aspects, including on-going audit preparedness, into the parish culture.

Diocese of Tucson, Arizona

Communication

The Diocese of Tucson Office of Protection has tried to increase its visibility by revamping and renaming the web site to Our Call to Protect and provide a “user friendly” format in order to access our resources more readily. Additionally, there were a total of eight articles written for the “The New Vision” a monthly Diocesan wide newspaper that addressed the following issues; Educating Children to report, Code of Conduct and Safety Operating Plans, Care of Elders and Self-Care for Clergy. A poster targeted for K-3 graders was created for schools to use in conjunction with their Personal Safety curriculum.

Outreach

This office in collaboration with several Diocesan Directors and three victim groups in Pima County organized a mass on September 23, 2012 to outreach to victims of abuse at the Cathedral in which Bishop Kicanas officiated. Material that was created for this mass was also disseminated to all the parishes for their involvement at their own geographic sites.

Training

The Safe Environment Program of the Diocese of Tucson has written and implemented policies that 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. Conjoint trainings during this year focused on compliance with an emphasis on safety and mandatory procedures with the Diocese of Tucson Human Resources presented to the following cities; Nogales, Yuma, Casa Grande, Globe and several Tucson parishes.

In the current audit year, 3,589 additional volunteers without independent access to minors in their ministry were educated and 30,807 other persons, including parents, in the parish and school communities were given education.

The Safe Environment Program has also written and implemented educational materials 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 and Tucson Police Department Elder Abuse Unit to assist parish personnel/volunteers with potential vulnerable abuse issues in their communities.

Conferences

The Director of this Office has been involved in the following activities; participated on a planning committee and presented at a conference on “Faith Communities and Outreach to Prevent Domestic Violence,” held a Board seat on the Pima County Child Advocacy Organization and participated on a professional panel addressing mental health issues in faith communities.

Archdiocese of Washington, DC

Policies & Procedures

During the past year, the Archdiocese conducted a pilot test of a new “electronic” background check. For over a year, all volunteers and employees who have substantial contact with minors or vulnerable adults were required to go through both a fingerprint background check and an “electronic” background check. The results of the “electronic” background check were found to provide more accurate information on which to base decisions as to who is eligible to have substantial contact with minors or vulnerable adults.

Communication

During the past year, the Archdiocese conducted the first annual Virtus Facilitator Appreciation event. The purpose of the event was to provide a format for Virtus facilitators to gather and suggest improvements for providing Virtus training. A number of good suggestions came from the meeting, which is now scheduled as an annual event.

Diocese of Wichita, Kansas

Training

Each year, the Ongoing Formation for the Clergy Committee requires each priest to give an accounting of the priestly workshops and conferences that the priest attended during the year, (July 1 – June 30). The promulgated diocesan policy for the Diocese of Wichita requires each priest to attend at least seven days of ongoing formation each year, in addition to the canonical retreat. In an attempt to integrate the Safe Environment curriculum as another component of the ongoing formation of our priests, this audit year, each priest had to attest that he had read and responded to each of the twelve (monthly) VIRTUS bulletins that were presented in this past year.

In August 2012, the Office of Faith Formation offered two Catechetical Fairs in different parts of the diocese. One of the purposes of these fairs was to explain to all catechists in the diocese how the safe environment curriculum would be accessed online. During these fairs, the catechists learned how to teach children appropriate boundary issues.

Communication

To create a safe environment for our children and young people requires collaboration among all persons in that community. This past year, the persons responsible for different components of compliance of the Charter for the Diocese of Wichita met periodically throughout the year to discuss what each person / office was doing. The results of these meetings led to developing a calendar of activities listing the month of the year that each of the tasks are to be completed.

Diocese of Worcester, Massachusetts

Communication

Our diocese produces a monthly cable TV/streaming internet program called “A Conversation with Bishop McManus.” In June 2013, as in years past, the program 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 New England Victims Assistance Coordinators and other staff from their dioceses were hosted at the Worcester Chancery to share current information and discuss ongoing response issues in relation to the Charter.

Training

In addition to Religious Education programs which supplement programs taught in public schools, each year, Safe Environment training for parents is offered through the Religious Education programs. During this audit period, 3,966 parents completed the program.

Diocese of Yakima, Washington

Training

The Diocese participated in the Take 25 program, with all Catholic schools offering child safety lessons, and parents receiving additional information, whether or not the schools had already offered training. Several parishes took part in Take 25 as well. More than 2,000 students received this additional education.

The Diocese invited Deacon Bernie Nojadera, director of the Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection of the USCCB, to give presentations in February. Deacon Bernie provided training to the Diocesan Lay advisory Board, and then to Catholic School Principals, Priests, and Deacons and their wives during the annual Priest-Deacon Day. The training, particularly scenarios from parish and school life, was well received by the more than 200 participants.

Communication

The Diocesan newsletter, the Central Washington Catholic, promoted the church’s safe environment work with articles in March and April of 2013 about Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Take 25 program.

Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio

Communication

Promoted Child Abuse Prevention Month by sending materials to all pastors, associate pastors, parish ministers and parish offices in March for their use in April, Child Abuse Prevention Month. Materials included: memorandum about the promotion and why we are doing it; bulletin/pulpit announcements; Child Abuse Prevention Blessing, and a reprint of an article written by the Chancellor/SEC/VAC for the diocesan newspaper.

The Chancellor/SEC/VAC wrote an article which was published in the diocesan newspaper discussing Child Abuse Prevention Month.

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.

Policies & Procedures

Twice a year, and whenever 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.

Although most Central Services employees do not work with children, all employees participated in the in-service training and were fingerprinted for a background check. (Those that do work with children do so through their parishes and completed compliance requirements through their parishes.)