

2017

ANNUAL REPORT

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



SECRETARIAT
OF CHILD
AND YOUTH
PROTECTION

NATIONAL
REVIEW BOARD

UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

MAY 2018

Report on the Implementation of the

CHARTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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*Report on the Implementation of the
Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, DC

SECRETARIAT OF CHILD
AND YOUTH PROTECTION

NATIONAL REVIEW BOARD

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE
OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS



The *2017 Annual Report on the Implementation of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People”* was prepared by the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection for the National Review Board and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). It was authorized by the USCCB President, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo. It has been directed for publication by the undersigned.

Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield
General Secretary, USCCB

First Printing, May 2018

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Office of the President

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His Eminence Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston
President

Preface

I am pleased to present this fifteenth annual report on the progress of implementing the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge and thank all victims/survivors who continue to come forward to share their stories. It is because of these brave individuals that victim assistance and child protection are now central components of the Church. Because of them outreach is now offered to others who have been gravely harmed by the Church, and other children and vulnerable adults are prevented from experiencing this harm.

Implementing the *Charter* is not something that can be done by only one person. It takes the effort of multiple people in every diocese and in every parish to ensure that victims/survivors have opportunities for healing, and that the Church is a safe place for children and vulnerable adults. There are numerous individuals on the diocesan level—bishops, clergy, employees and volunteers—who work tirelessly to ensure the requirements of the *Charter* are being met.

We have come a long way in the Church since the *Charter* was adopted by the members of this Conference in 2002. As a Church we have learned much and have continued to grow in our efforts. However, we must continue to move forward and enhance our outreach to victims/survivors, and our child and vulnerable adult protection efforts. It is our great responsibility to the faithful and to the larger community to create cultures of protection and healing within the Church. This means victim outreach and child protection must remain core values within the Church. We must continually rededicate ourselves to keeping our promise to protect and pledge to heal.



National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People

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23 February 2018

His Eminence
Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Your Eminence,

On behalf of the National Review Board, I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report summarizing the results of the compliance audit conducted by StoneBridge Business Partners for 2017. Mandated in article nine of the Charter, the on-site audit, along with the data collection audit, are important instruments in the Church's response to the sexual abuse of minors by the clergy. The audit is a means of holding the bishops accountable in their implementation of the Charter and in their creation of a safe environment in the Church aimed at the protection of children and young people. Many among the faithful, and in society at large, question the commitment of the Church, in particular the bishops, in addressing the sexual abuse of children. The audit is a means of assessing the seriousness with which the bishops take this responsibility by measuring the progress being made in dioceses/eparchies across the nation. It is for this reason that it is vital that the audit remain independent so as to restore the credibility of the bishops on this issue.

Overall, the results of this year's audit demonstrate that there is an on-going commitment to ensure that the provisions of the Charter are being implemented by the bishops. Of the sixty-one dioceses and eparchies that participated in the on-site audit, three eparchies were found to be non-compliant with certain articles of the Charter. All three of these eparchies were non-compliant with article 2 regarding the requirement that review boards meet regularly, and one of these eparchies was also non-compliant with articles 12 and 13, since safe environment training was not being offered and there were no background clearances for priests, candidates for ordination, and volunteers. It should be pointed out that all 133 dioceses/eparchies that participated in the data collection audit were found to be compliant with the requirement to submit their data. An important indicator that every bishop takes his responsibility to implement the Charter seriously is achieving 100% participation of dioceses/eparchies in the on-site audit. It was hoped that this goal would be achieved this year, however, that was not the case. Three dioceses/eparchies did not participate in the on-site audit – the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, the Eparchy of St. Mary Queen of Peace, and the Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle. The non-participation of the Diocese of St. Thomas was the result of hurricanes Irma and Maria that caused much damage to the island, making it impossible for the on-site audit to take place. Aside from the extenuating circumstances in this instance, it is imperative that the goal of 100% participation remain a priority if the faithful are to be convinced that all of our bishops are doing everything possible to prevent future cases of sexual abuse of children and young people by the clergy.

The bishops are to be commended for their on-going implementation of the Charter as a means of creating safe environments in their dioceses. Keeping the child at the center, the bishops are not only keeping children safe by implementing the requirements of the Charter, but in some cases, going beyond simply being compliant with the provisions of the Charter by incorporating practices recommended by the auditors aimed at strengthening their efforts on behalf of the protection of children. One such example is parish audits. During this audit cycle, Stonebridge visited 110 parishes and schools in 28 dioceses, which is up from 97 parishes and schools in 23 dioceses in last year's audit. In addition, of the 194 dioceses that participated in the overall audit process, 95 dioceses indicated that they perform parish audits in some form on a regular basis, which is an increase of ten dioceses since last year, and 10 dioceses do so on an "as needed" basis. The importance of parish audits cannot be overemphasized since it is the only way to verify compliance with the Charter. The National Review Board wishes to acknowledge these efforts on the part of some bishops and encourages all bishops to institute some form of parish audit on a regular basis even though this is not required by the Charter, since it is on the parish level where it can be truly determined whether policies and procedures of the diocese that comply with the Charter are actually being implemented.

The pastoral outreach to victims of sexual abuse by the clergy through healing and reconciliation on the part of the bishops remains a significant aspect of the Church's response to this crisis. Similarly, the bishops continue to respond to allegations of sexual abuse by the clergy by reporting these cases to local authorities and quickly removing the cleric from active ministry. These are just a few of the many ways that the bishops are continuing their pledge to protect and heal confirmed in this year's audit that are highlighted in the Annual Report.

While progress continues to be made, there are worrisome signs for the future revealed in this year's audit that cannot be ignored. Perhaps of greatest concern is a general complacency that the auditors found, which manifested itself in various ways throughout this audit cycle. This complacency was evident in the shortage of resources made available to fully implement programs that adequately respond to the directives and spirit of the Charter. Similarly, in some dioceses background checks were not completed in a timely manner and, in some cases, the auditors found poor record keeping, which could result in unscreened individuals interacting with children. There were instances reported that raised questions about the reliability of the background checks being conducted due to the variety of organizations being utilized and the thoroughness of their services due to a lack of oversight by the diocese of the procedures used by these providers. In some dioceses where the liturgy is celebrated in various languages, reporting procedures were not available in printed form in all of these principal languages, potentially limiting the ability of non-English speakers to report instances of abuse. Another concern was the high percentage of children who did not receive safe environment training in some dioceses, the majority of whom attend parish religious education programs. This seems symptomatic of a difficulty in getting parishes to co-operate, a deficiency also expressed by safe environment personnel, who were challenged in getting parishes and schools to respond to their requests for information. Related to this is the absence of a centralized or well managed data base, poor record keeping, and inefficient processes for collecting data from parishes and schools. Consequently, it is difficult to effectively monitor compliance on the local level, which provides further rationale for the necessity of parish audits. It is perplexing that the auditors found that some dioceses have not updated their policies and procedures to conform to the revisions made to the Charter in 2011, which in some cases was pointed out to these dioceses in earlier audits. Herein lies further evidence of an attitude of complacency as the auditors found re-occurring concerns that were pointed out to the bishop in previous audits. While these concerns are by no means found every diocese, these individual cases suggest that there are cracks in the wall that taken collectively can lead to a resurgence of the abuse of minors by the clergy unless addressed. I would encourage the bishops to review carefully the concerns highlighted in the Annual Report in light of the situation within their own diocese and do all that they can to rectify any weaknesses they uncover. This proactive response would help in stemming the complacency that seems to be emerging.

The apparent complacency that is emerging seems to suggest that some believe that the sexual abuse of minors by the clergy is now an historic event of the past. This would be an unfortunate conclusion as this year's audit report makes evident. While the audit found that the number of allegations, the vast majority from the past, decreased significantly as compared to 2015 and 2016, there were 24 allegations reported in this audit cycle that involved current minors. At the time of the conclusion of the audit cycle, six of the allegations were substantiated, five of the allegations were still being investigated, three were unable to be proven, investigations were still ongoing for five allegations, one was referred to a religious order, one was referred to an international diocese, and eight allegations were unsubstantiated. Any allegation involving a current minor should remind the bishops that they must re-dedicate themselves each day to maintaining a level of vigilance that will not permit complacency to set in or result in a less precise and thorough implementation of the Charter.

The Annual Report highlights several recommendations and best practices based on what was observed by the auditors across the dioceses/eparchies visited. While these recommendations are not requirements of the Charter, nor are they related to compliance with the Charter, they may prove helpful to the bishops in their ongoing implementation of the Charter, particularly in stemming the wave of complacency.

In recent months there has been much attention paid to sexual abuse in general and of minors in particular in the media as a result of allegations in other sectors of our society, such as higher education, Olympic sports, Hollywood and the political world. The Church's response to the sexual abuse crisis due to the commitment and efforts of the bishops stands out as a model to be emulated by other institutions. The bishops have taken their responsibility seriously as progress continues to be made in addressing this sin and crime. Nevertheless, this year's audit is also a reminder that the bishops must remain vigilant, courageous, and bold in their on-going commitment to address this problem. The National Review Board is grateful to the bishops for all they have done and continue to do in confronting clerical sexual abuse. We encourage the bishops in their efforts and leadership on this issue, not only within the Church, but also society at large. This could be a moment for a restoration of the moral leadership of the Church, which should be seized. The members of the National Review Board commend your own commitment and leadership in supporting the Charter, the audit, as well as the efforts of the NRB. In addition, the members of the National Review Board pledge to use our expertise and knowledge to provide advice, counsel, and support to the bishops as they continue to address this issue, as we seek to assist you in restoring the credibility of the episcopacy in nurturing a culture of safety for our children.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francesco C. Cesareo

Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D.
Chairman



Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection

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9 March 2018

His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dr. Francesco Cesareo
Chairman, National Review Board

Your Eminence and Dr. Cesareo,

Over the course of the last year, the sin and crime of sexual abuse has more fully entered into the public spotlight. We witnessed the rise of the #MeToo movement. We heard the victim impact statements from young athletes from the U.S. Gymnastics Team. Countless allegations of domestic and sexual abuse against politicians, celebrities, coaches, and other prominent figures emerged. Trusted priests and laity in the Church committed abuse against minors in their care. The trauma of abuse continues to leave its mark on our nation and our Church, and our Church continues to respond in a comprehensive and compassionate manner.

In 2002, through the promulgation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, the bishops gave their promise and commitment to protect and heal. The events of the last year show how important it is to carry out the responsibilities listed within the *Charter*. The Church must more valiantly carry out Her pledge to prevent the abuse of children, and do more to support those who have been abused, whether within or outside of the Church.

For the last two years, the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection has been working with dioceses to learn more about how the principles of High Reliability Organizations can strengthen the Church's efforts to protect and heal. It is the hope of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection that dioceses will utilize these principles to build upon their methods of responding to allegations of abuse, providing care and outreach to survivor/victims, and protecting children and the vulnerable through mindfulness and the continued facilitation of safe environment training and background checks. A consistent and competent system of prevention and response must not only remain present in the Church, but also continue to improve. Our faith, our parishioners, and the general public, demand nothing less.

Going forward, we encourage dioceses to ensure that this ministry of care and outreach for survivor/victims and safe environment training is ingrained in their culture. Safety and wellness must remain as core values for our bishops, and the Church in the United States must continue to challenge society to transform and change its culture as well. The Secretariat understands fully that these changes are seeds planted, and that the full fruition of our labors will be realized when abuse of any kind is no longer tolerated.

May God guide our efforts and bless those we have been called to serve.

Sincerely in Christ,

Deacon Bernie Nojadera
Executive Director



February 14, 2018

His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dr. Francesco C. Cesareo, PhD
Chairman, National Review Board

His Eminence and Dr. Cesareo,

The 2017 audit period marked the completion of the first year of a three-year audit cycle involving StoneBridge Business Partners. Over the past year, we visited 61 dioceses and eparchies. During the year it was welcoming to see one new eparchy join the process and allow their institution to be audited.

In an on-going effort to produce more efficient and effective audits, this past year we hosted two webinars from the USCCB offices in Washington, DC to educate safe environment coordinators and other diocesan/eparchial representatives on our audit process and approach. In June, StoneBridge staff attended a refresher training seminar presentation in conjunction with the Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection (SCYP) at StoneBridge's Rochester, New York headquarters.

This important work is aided by the efforts expended by the diocesan/eparchial personnel who dedicate their working lives to making a difference in maintaining safe environments for our youth. We are grateful for their work in implementing and administering the programs and safeguards that are instrumental to this process. However, none of this would be possible without the support and prioritization from the bishops throughout the country who are fulfilling the promise made in creating this *Charter* in 2002.

We appreciate the support and confidence that the Conference has in our organization by trusting us to assist in this worthy cause.

The annual report that follows compiles the information we gathered during our audits and our related findings and recommendations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Englert', written in a cursive style.

Thomas F. Englert, Consultant
StoneBridge Business Partners



Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY • <http://cara.georgetown.edu>

2300 WISCONSIN AVENUE, NW • SUITE 400 • WASHINGTON, DC 20007

January 2018

His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dr. Francesco Cesareo, Chair
National Review Board

Dear Cardinal DiNardo and Dr. Cesareo,

In November 2004, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to design and conduct an annual survey of all dioceses and eparchies whose bishops and eparchs are members of the USCCB. The purpose of this survey is to collect information on new allegations of sexual abuse of minors and the clergy against whom these allegations were made. The survey also gathers information on the amount of money dioceses and eparchies have expended as a result of allegations as well as the amount they have paid for child protection efforts. The national level aggregate results from this survey for each calendar year are reported in the *Annual Report of the Implementation of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."*

The questionnaire for the *2017 Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs* was designed by CARA in consultation with the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and was only slightly different from the versions used for the 2004 through 2016 *Annual Surveys*. As in previous years, CARA prepared an online version of the survey and provided bishops and eparchs with information about the process for completing it for their diocese or eparchy. In collaboration with the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, major superiors of religious institutes – including brother-only institutes – were also invited to complete a similar survey for their congregations, provinces, or monasteries.

Data collection for 2017 took place between August and December 2017. CARA received responses from all but one of the 196 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB and 171 of the 232 member religious institutes of CMSM, for response rates of 99 percent and 74 percent, respectively. CARA then prepared the national level summary tables and graphs of the findings for 2017, which are presented in this *Annual Report*.

We are grateful for the cooperation of the bishops, eparchs, and major superiors and their representatives in completing the survey for 2017.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

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PLACING SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AT THE SERVICE OF THE CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1964

SECTION I

2017



CHAPTER ONE

SECRETARIAT OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION 2017 PROGRESS REPORT

CREATING CULTURES OF PROTECTION AND HEALING

Current events continue to highlight the importance of protecting children and young people from sexual abuse and supporting the victims/survivors who bravely bring forward their reports. All forms of sexual abuse, especially those that occur within the Church, are intrinsic evils. Public revelations of abuse provide constant reminders of the devastating effects of these grave sins and crimes on all those affected. As a Church, we recognize the evils committed by the trusted clerics who harmed those in their care, as well as our failures in responding to the victims/survivors who have come forward to report. We continue to offer our most sincere and heartfelt apologies for these tragedies.

Since 2002, dioceses and eparchies (the Eastern Catholic equivalent of a diocese) have implemented the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (Charter)*. Through the *Charter*, great strides have been made to promote healing and the protection of children and youth. Although following the guidelines of the *Charter* is extremely important, conforming the attitudes and behaviors of those

within our Church to a culture of protection and healing will make our outreach and prevention efforts more effective.

In a culture of protection and healing, dioceses/eparchies will consider victim/survivor outreach and child protection to be core values of their ministries, and put them at the forefront of their mission as Church. It is our goal to make victim/survivor outreach and child and youth protection become second nature for those in our dioceses/eparchies, including parishes and schools.

PROGRESS

Articles 8 through 11 of the *Charter* ensure the accountability of procedures for implementing the *Charter* across the United States, and are not subject to the audit. Instead, the activities of the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People (CPCYP), National Review Board, and Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection are highlighted in this progress report.

ARTICLE 8

Membership of the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People (CPCYP) from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 included the following

bishops shown with the Regions they represented and consultants:

November 2015 – November 2016

Bishop Edward J. Burns, Chair
Term expired in 2017

Bishop Peter Uglietto
Term expired November 2017

Bishop Terry R. LaValley (II)
Term expired November 2016

Bishop David A. Zubik (III)
Term expired November 2017

Bishop Barry C. Knestout (IV)
Term expired November 2017

Bishop William F. Medley (V)
Term expired November 2016

Bishop Stephen J. Raica (VI)
Term expires November 2018

Bishop Edward K. Braxton (VII)
Term expires November 2018

Bishop Donald J. Kettler (VIII)
Term expires November 2018

Bishop Carl A. Kemme (IX)
Term expired November 2017

Bishop Patrick J. Zurek (X)
Term expires November 2019

Bishop William J. Justice (XI)
Term expired November 2016

Bishop Liam Cary (XII)
Term expired November 2017

Bishop Paul D. Etienne (XIII)
Term expires November 2018

Bishop David P. Talley (XIV)
Term expired November 2017

November 2016 – November 2017

Bishop Edward J. Burns, Chair
Term expired in 2017

Bishop Timothy L. Doherty, Chair-Elect
Term expires in 2020

Bishop Peter Uglietto
Term expired November 2017

Bishop Terry R. LaValley (II)
Term expired November 2016

Bishop David A. Zubik (III)
Term expired November 2017

Bishop Barry C. Knestout (IV)
Term expired November 2017

Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz (V)
Term expires November 2019

Bishop Stephen J. Raica (VI)
Term expires November 2018

Bishop Edward K. Braxton (VII)
Term expires November 2018

Bishop Donald J. Kettler (VIII)
Term expires November 2018

Bishop Carl A. Kemme (IX)
Term expired November 2017

Bishop Patrick J. Zurek (X)
Term expires November 2019

Bishop Joseph V. Brennan (XI)
Term expires November 2019

Bishop Liam Cary (XII)
Term expired November 2017

Bishop Jorge H. Rodriguez-Novelo (XIII)
Term expires November 2018

Bishop Jacob Angadiath (XV)
Term expires November 2018

Bishop Peter Baldacchino (XIV)
Term expired November 2017

Bishop Jacob Angadiath (XV)
Term expires November 2018

Consultants

November 2015 – November 2016

Rev. Msgr. Jeffrey Burrill
*Associate General Secretary
USCCB*

Rev. Brian Terry, SA
*President
Conference of Major Superiors of Men*

Rev. John Pavlik OFM Cap
*Executive Director
Conference of Major Superiors of Men*

Rev. Ralph O'Donnell
*Executive Director
Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life
and Vocations, USCCB*

Mr. James Rogers
Chief Communications Officer, USCCB

Mr. Jeffrey Hunter Moon
*Director of Legal Affairs
Office of General Counsel, USCCB*

Ms. Siobhan Verbeek
*Director
Canonical Affairs*

Judge Michael Merz
*Former Chair
National Review Board*

Ms. Beth Heidt-Kozisek, PhD
*Director
Child Protection Office
Diocese of Grand Island*

Ms. Rita Flaherty
*Diocesan Assistance Coordinator
Diocese of Pittsburgh*

November 2016 – November 2017

Rev. Msgr. Jeffrey Burrill
*Associate General Secretary
USCCB*

Rev. Brian Terry, SA
*President
Conference of Major Superiors of Men*

Rev. John Pavlik OFM Cap
*Executive Director
Conference of Major Superiors of Men*

Rev. Ralph O'Donnell
*Executive Director
Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and
Vocations, USCCB*

Ms. Judy Keane
Director of Public Affairs, USCCB

Mr. Jeffrey Hunter Moon
*Director of Legal Affairs
Office of General Counsel, USCCB*

Ms. Siobhan Verbeek
*Director
Canonical Affairs*

Judge Michael Merz
*Former Chair
National Review Board*

Ms. Beth Heidt-Kozisek, PhD
*Director
Child Protection Office
Diocese of Grand Island*

Ms. Rita Flaherty
*Diocesan Assistance Coordinator
Diocese of Pittsburgh*

The CPCYP meets during the months of March, June, September, and November. At two of those meetings, June and November, the CPCYP meets jointly with the National Review Board (NRB).

NEW BISHOPS' CHARTER ORIENTATION

The CPCYP has been asked to assist all bishops and eparchs, especially those newly appointed, to understand the obligations required of them by the *Charter*. In response, the CPCYP typically hosts a program specifically to address any questions new bishops and eparchs may have regarding the *Charter* and the annual compliance audits. Beginning in 2011, this orientation has been an annual event during the bishops' General Meeting in November. It remains a great opportunity to share the history of the *Charter* as well as the spirit behind the original promise to protect and pledge to heal made in 2002.

THE 2017 ANGLOPHONE CONFERENCE

Bishop Edward J. Burns with Dr. Francesco Cesareo, Chair of the NRB, and Melanie Takinen, Associate Director of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, attended the seventeenth Anglophone Conference in Rome, Italy, in June of 2017. The episcopal conferences of Scotland and Malta hosted the conference with the theme: *Hope*.

MASS OF PRAYER AND PENANCE

In June of 2017, the opening Mass for the bishops plenary meeting was a Mass of Prayer and Penance for victims/survivors of abuse within the Church. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo was the primary celebrant and Archbishop Wilton Gregory was the homilist. During the Mass all bishops present knelt to pray specifically for the healing of victims/survivors. Highlights from the Mass are available to view on the USCCB website.

ARTICLE 9

The *Charter* specifically created the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection (Secretariat) and assigned to it three central tasks:

To assist each diocese/eparchy in implementing Safe Environment programs designed to ensure necessary safety and security for all children as they participate in church and religious activities.

To prepare a public, annual report describing the compliance of each diocese/eparchy with the provisions of the *Charter*.

To be a resource for dioceses/eparchies for implementing safe environment programs and for suggesting training and development of diocesan personnel responsible for child and youth protection programs, taking into account the financial and other differences, as well as the population and demographics, of each diocese/eparchy. The Secretariat also serves as a resource to dioceses/eparchies on all matters of child and youth protection, including outreach to victims/survivors and child protection efforts.

The Secretariat works closely with StoneBridge Business Partners, auditors, to ensure an appropriate audit mechanism to determine the compliance of the responsibilities set forth in the *Charter*.

The Secretariat's support of dioceses/eparchies includes sponsoring web based communities to assist the missions of Victim Assistance Coordinators, Safe Environment Coordinators, and Diocesan Review Boards; preparing resource materials extracted from the audits; creating materials to assist in both healing and *Charter* compliance; and providing resources for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. In keeping with the conference emphasis on collaboration, during the month of October, the Secretariat also focuses on the sanctity and dignity of human life as it joins with the Office of Pro-Life Activities in offering prayers and reflections. The issue of child abuse/child sexual abuse is most certainly a life issue in the full spectrum of protecting life from conception to natural death.

When invited, the Secretariat staff will visit dioceses/eparchies and offer assistance. On a limited basis and as needed, the staff of the Secretariat provides support to and referral of victims/survivors to resources that can aid them in their healing. Staff also collaborates with a variety of other child serving organizations.

The Secretariat provides staff support for the CPCYP, the NRB, and its committees. The Secretariat provides monthly reports of its activities to the members of the CPCYP and the NRB. These reports reflect the administrative efforts of the Secretariat within the USCCB, the external support by the Secretariat to the dioceses/eparchies on *Charter* related matters, and the work of the CPCYP and NRB as supported and facilitated by the Secretariat.

SECRETARIAT OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION STAFF

The following four staff members served in the Secretariat during the audit period of July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

Deacon Bernie Nojadera, Executive Director, has been with the Secretariat since 2011. He served as Director of the Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults with the Diocese of San Jose, California, from 2002-2011. He was a pastoral associate at St. Mary Parish, Gilroy, California (1987-2002). He was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Joseph College, Mountain View, California, in 1984; a Master of Social Work degree specializing in health and mental health services from San Jose State University in 1991; and a Master of Arts in Theology from St. Patrick's Seminary and University, Menlo Park, California, in 2002. He was ordained a permanent deacon in 2008. He has been a member of the Diocese of San Jose Safe Environment Task Force, involved with the San Jose Police Department's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the County of Santa Clara Interfaith Clergy Task Force on the Prevention of Elder Abuse, and the County of Santa Clara Task Force on Suicide Prevention. He has worked as a clinical social worker for Santa Clara County Mental Health (1991-2000) and is a military veteran. He is married and has two adult children.

Melanie Takinen, Associate Director, has been with the Secretariat since August of 2016. From 2011-2016 she served as the Director of Safe Environment Training for the Diocese of Phoenix, where she implemented parish and school site visits to review adherence to diocesan child protection policies and procedures. Other employment includes academic counseling, youth

ministry and social services. She holds a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies with concentrations in Sociology and Education from Arizona State University, and a Master of Science in Psychology from the University of Phoenix. She and her husband have one young son.

Drew Dillingham, Coordinator for Resources and Special Projects, has served the Conference since July 2013. Drew holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master's of Public Policy from Stony Brook University, NY. Drew also received a Certificate in Catholic Theology from Saint Joseph's College in Maine and a Diploma in the Safeguarding of Minors from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. Drew and his wife, Kimberly, welcomed their first child in the Spring.

Laura Garner, Executive Assistant, joined the staff of the Secretariat on January 3, 2011. Previously, Ms. Garner served as a Staff Assistant in the Office of the General Counsel with the USCCB since 2008. Ms. Garner holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Loyola College and a Master of Arts in Art Therapy from George Washington University. Before joining the USCCB, she worked at home as a medical transcriptionist while raising four children. Other employment includes bank teller, paraprofessional, computer educator, and receptionist.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

The Secretariat was involved in numerous activities and projects pertaining to healing and prevention over the past year.

- Continued work with the CPCYP and the NRB.
- Collaboration between the Secretariat and dioceses/eparchies regarding all matters of victim/survivor assistance and child and youth protection.
- Planning continued for revisions to the *Charter*, with collaboration from other committees and departments within the USCCB.
- Presentations were prepared and given at various conferences pertaining to healing and child and youth protection within the Church.

Professional networking relationships were built between the Secretariat and other organizations involved in outreach to victims/survivors and child abuse prevention, including the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Boy Scouts of America, the National Children's Advocacy Center, Prevent Child Abuse America, the Healing Voices, Spirit Fire Ministries, and the Maria Goretti Network.

CHARTER IMPLEMENTATION TRAINING WEBINAR

The fifth annual webinar/live training was offered at the USCCB, on Tuesday, October 3, 2016. Speakers included Dr. Francesco Cesareo, chair of the NRB, Ms. Teresa Hartnett, Dcn. Steven DeMartino, and Ms. Siobhan Verbeek. They gave presentations regarding updates from the NRB, the importance of healing and outreach to victims/survivors, the importance of pastoral care to offenders and the accused, and the relationship between Canon Law and the *Charter*, respectively.

CULTURES OF PROTECTION AND HEALING

The project of creating cultures of protection and healing by implementing the principles of High Reliability Organizations (HROs) in dioceses/eparchies continues. A steering committee, consisting of diocesan/eparchial safe environment and victim assistance coordinators, continued to provide feedback to the Secretariat on this initiative. "Alpha sites" for the HRO pilot training program were identified. The first official HRO training occurred in the Diocese of Manchester in early 2017. Additional HRO trainings will continue throughout 2018. The alpha sites are the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Dioceses of Manchester, Gary, Columbus, Baton Rouge, Kansas City-St. Joseph, and the Eparchy of St. George in Canton. Implementing the training on cultures of protection and healing is an ongoing project.

RESOURCE TOOLBOX

Through collaboration with the NRB, the Secretariat released a "Resource Toolbox" to assist dioceses/eparchies in *Charter* implementation. The Toolbox contains hundreds of documents gathered from dioceses/eparchies on all articles of the *Charter*. The Toolbox is available to all victim assistance and child and youth protection staff, as well as diocesan/eparchial review board chairs. Additional resources will continue to be accepted into the Toolbox on an ongoing basis.

ARTICLE 10

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops established the NRB during their meeting in June of 2002. The functions of the Board were modified slightly and reconfirmed in June of 2005 when the *Charter* was revised. The purpose of the NRB is to collaborate with the USCCB in preventing the sexual abuse of minors by persons in the service of the Church in the United States.

The membership of the NRB during the audit period was as follows:

Term expires in June 2020

Dr. Francesco Cesareo, Chair
Adm. Garry Hall USN (ret.)
Mr. Ernie Stark

Term expires in 2019

Mr. Howard Healy
Ms. D. Jean Ortega-Piron
Mr. Donald Wheeler

Term expires in 2018

Judge M. Katherine Huffman
Ms. Nelle Moriarty
Mr. Donald Schmid

Term expired in 2017

Dr. Michael de Arellano
Dr. Fernando Ortiz
Ms. Laura Rogers
Mr. Scott Wasserman

The chair is appointed by the USCCB President from persons nominated by the NRB. In 2016 Archbishop Joseph Kurtz re-appointed Dr. Francesco Cesareo to be Chair for a second

four-year term expiring in June 2020. The other officers are elected by the Board, and committee chairs are appointed by the NRB chair.

The NRB officers and committees were as follows:

Chair: Dr. Francesco Cesareo
 Vice Chair: Dr. Fernando Ortiz
 Secretary: Judge M. Katherine Huffman

Its four committees are:

The Audit Committee, chaired by Ms. Laura Rogers, continued its work of keeping the audit process updated and effective, as well as obtaining documents for the Resource Toolbox.

The Research and Trends Committee, chaired by Dr. Michael de Arellano, moved forward in discussing current trends in child and youth protection as well as developing ways to measure the effectiveness of safe environment training for children and adults by enlisting the input of safe environment coordinators across the country.

The Communications Committee, chaired by Ms. Nelle Moriarty, discussed ways to assist dioceses/eparchies in getting out to the faithful the progress the church has made in combating child sexual abuse.

The Nominations Committee chaired by Mr. Donald Wheeler, elicited nominations of potential NRB candidates for terms beginning in June of 2017.

Additional information concerning the NRB can be found at: <http://www.usccb.org/about/child-and-youth-protection/the-national-review-board.cfm>

ARTICLE II

President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, has shared a copy of this Annual Report with the Holy See.

MOVING FORWARD

The Church would not be where it is today regarding survivor/victim outreach and child and youth protection without the brave victims/survivors of sexual abuse who came forward to share their stories. We must be ever grateful to them for the role they continue to play in bringing healing and accountability to the Church. Our efforts must be toward their healing and the prevention of future abuse.

While great work has been done across the Church at the diocesan and parish levels, it is not yet finished, nor will it ever be. As the year 2017 marked the sixteenth anniversary of the implementation of the *Charter*, proof that the *Charter* is still needed remains evident. There are still various levels of *Charter* implementation across the nation. While the vast majority of dioceses/eparchies have continued to enhance their outreach to victims/survivors, and improve their child protection policies and procedures, others have simply focused on meeting the minimum requirements of the *Charter* in order to fulfill the requirements of the *Charter* and the annual audit. As is evident in the fact that new allegations continue to be reported each year, including from current minors, sexual abuse is not a problem of the past. While the vast majority of abuse reported today within the Church is of a historical nature, that does not mean it should no longer concern us. Even one allegation of sexual abuse from a current minor within the Church means we must improve. We cannot simply remain stagnant in our victim/survivor outreach and child protection efforts.

THE JOHN JAY STUDY

One manner in which we can continue to improve our victim/survivor outreach and child protection efforts is for dioceses/eparchies to verify they have implemented the recommendations from *The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States (the John Jay Study)*. This study was completed by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City and outlined recommendations for continued prevention of abuse within the Church. One recommendation was that a “human formation” component be added to seminary education. While this has been implemented at seminaries

within the United States, human formation programs should be continuously evaluated for effectiveness and improvement. Another recommendation made in the *John Jay Study* was for clergy to have opportunities for sabbaticals if needed, as well as for bishops to support their clergy through formation and continuing education.

In addition to ongoing educational prevention, policies are also needed to prevent abuse on a practical, or situational, level. Regarding situational prevention, the *John Jay Study* recommended the following:

- Make it more difficult for a priest to abuse by implementing safe environment training programs.
- Increase the risk for an abuser to be identified and have a “zero tolerance” policy for abuse.
- Conduct periodic performance evaluations on priests, including obtaining feedback from administrative staff and parishioners.
- Provide alternative outlets for priests to form close social bonds with peers and other adults.
- Reduce the factors that may lead priests to abuse, such as stress. Examples could be implementing stress-reduction seminars, offering retreats and requiring ongoing formation education.
- Promote healthy boundaries by continuing education about appropriate and inappropriate behavior with minors. This eliminates any excuses that a priest might say they did not know a behavior was wrong, or that they were not harming the minor.

In addition to continuing formation, education and situational prevention, the *John Jay Study* also states that while the Church has undergone organizational change in responding to sexual abuse, this change is not yet complete. Organizational change can take decades to become routine. While implementing the *Charter* has become a key component of organizational change within the Church, the continued development of policies, procedures, and training is still needed. Moving forward in organizational change involves creating cultures of protection and healing, where victim assistance and child protection are core values of a diocese/eparchy, and all actions carried out within the Church are with this mindfulness.

CREATING CULTURES OF PROTECTION AND HEALING

To keep moving forward in victim/survivor outreach and child protection, efforts will involve not only our continued commitment to the *Charter*, but also our commitment to a change in culture. For the last few years, in order to help dioceses/eparchies strengthen their cultures and better manage issues of prevention and response, the Secretariat has been assisting dioceses/eparchies in implementing the principles of high reliability. An exploration of High Reliability Organizations (HRO) principles and their connection to child and youth protection issues has already begun to yield fruit in dioceses/eparchies, and has brought about concrete changes in the way leaders think and act. We are encouraged by the progress that dioceses/eparchies have made in becoming high reliability organizations. The following are some ways in which dioceses can continue to strengthen their organizational culture in regard to issues of child and youth protection.

Dioceses/eparchies can bring about a change in culture by ensuring that all leaders are committed to safety as a core value. A change in culture requires the commitment of all members of the diocese/eparchy, from not only the bishop and victim/survivor assistance and child protection staff, but also from all personnel at the diocesan/eparchial level. Everyone within the diocese/eparchy can be encouraged to identify their own role in child protection and victim assistance, whether it is seen or unseen. Diocesan leaders across departments can meet to determine how child protection and victim assistance fits into their issue areas, and how they can incorporate protection and healing issues into all office and department goals. These issues can also be included as a part of diocesan strategic planning and mission advancement sessions. By inviting all leaders to recognize their roles in implementing the *Charter*, dioceses/eparchies can ensure that as a whole, they are committed to child protection and victim assistance.

The commitment of all diocesan leaders is especially important for dioceses/eparchies where allegations of abuse have not been received for many years. It is also important as those who were not in positions of leadership when the abuse crisis broke are now responsible for the safety of children and

outreach to victims/survivors. When a culture of protection and healing is created, the complacency leaders may have related to their systems of response and prevention can be broken. Leaders within such a culture will know that the potential for abuse always exists, and that they must be proactive if they are to prevent it from occurring.

Building a strong safety culture also means bringing to light issues that could lead to abuse or an ineffective response to allegations and victims/survivors. In many organizations, including the Church, staff can sometimes be hesitant to bring problems to the attention of leaders, especially those senior to them. In a culture of protection and healing, efforts are made to discuss any potential problems in an open forum, where staff can express their concerns in a productive way, without fear of repercussion.

Creating a forum where individuals formally review and discuss abuse that has occurred, or nearly occurred, in the past can be beneficial to dioceses/eparchies. For example, by reviewing case studies, dioceses/eparchies can practice their own responses to allegations and other problems, and review their own policies to identify any holes that need to be filled. Along the same lines, dioceses/eparchies and their parishes and schools can develop scenarios of abuse, based on examples both past and present, so they can practice their responses. These scenarios can be as simple as asking what went right and what went wrong after an allegation was received. Scenarios can also include poor experiences with reporting, victim assistance and pastoral care.

Formal reviews can also take place when a boundary violation is received. Within this forum, boundary violations can also be examined. After a boundary violation or allegation is reported to a diocese/eparchy and a response is carried out, diocesan leaders involved in the process can meet to conduct “after action reports” or debriefings. During these “after-action reports,” diocesan leaders can discuss what can be improved to prevent the occurrence of this event of harm in the future. More concrete action can be taken to follow-up with both the person affected by the boundary violation and the person committing the violation. This process for responding to boundary violations can also be codified in diocesan/eparchial policies.

Committees can also be formed to assist diocesan leaders in strengthening their cultures. For example, when an event of harm occurs, these

committees can meet to update diocesan policies and procedures to prevent reoccurrence of these same incidents. Other policy reviews can be made through the lens of HRO principles.

Finally, a culture of protection and healing can help dioceses/eparchies to improve their communication and transparency regarding issues of child protection and victim assistance. Lines of feedback can be opened between dioceses/eparchies and their parishes and schools. This can help create an environment where reporting red flags, warning signs and boundary violations (in addition to abuse) are expectations and the responsibility of all those who work for the Church. To encourage transparency in the chancery, meetings and conversations can begin with a quick brief on child protection. For example, bishops and other leaders can ask their staff if they have noticed anything of concern regarding child and youth protection, or do a quick “status check.” Dioceses/eparchies can also make it clear the reason for reviewing areas of failure is not necessarily to punish or criticize anyone, but to improve and understand their methods to prevent abuse, respond to allegations, and support victims/survivors.

Many of these practices and behaviors have already begun to be carried out in dioceses/eparchies. Culture is slowly changing. Our experience with dioceses/eparchies has shown us that the journey to high reliability, and the creation of a culture of protection and healing within the Church, is ongoing. While much has been learned from our past, we must take what we have learned and continue to grow in expanding our outreach and prevention efforts.

We encourage all dioceses/eparchies to explore how HRO principles might benefit them in protecting children from abuse, responding to allegations, and offering outreach to victims/survivors.

CONCLUSION

Dioceses/eparchies must continue to do all they can to fulfill the “Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal” their bishops have made to the faithful. We cannot allow complacency to become the norm. As Bishop Edward J. Burns, former chair of the CPCYP stated, “we cannot ever simply be coasting along in child protection. Coasting means we are going downhill.

2017 Annual Report: Findings and Recommendations

We must always endeavor to improve and move forward.” Creating a culture of protection and healing throughout the Church remains a top priority of the CPCYP, the NRB, and the Secretariat. It is our hope that our efforts to strengthen culture will help the Church keep moving forward in its efforts to offer effective outreach and support to victims/survivors and uphold a policy of “zero-tolerance” for abuse.

God creates every person with an inherent human dignity, and it is up to each one of us to ensure that all people are treated with the respect they deserve as children of God. As we carry out the work of serving victims/survivors and creating safe environments, we join in the mission of the Gospel by working together to create cultures of protection and healing.

CHAPTER TWO

STONEBRIDGE BUSINESS PARTNERS 2017 AUDIT REPORT

INTRODUCTION

This Audit Report summarizes the results of the 2017 *Charter* audits for inclusion in the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection’s Annual Report, in accordance with Article 9 of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. Article 9 states, “The Secretariat is to produce an annual public report on the progress made in implementing and maintaining the standards in this *Charter*. The report is to be based on an annual audit process whose method, scope, and cost are approved by the Administrative Committee on the recommendation of the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. This public report is to include the names of those dioceses/eparchies which the audit shows are not in compliance with the provisions and expectations of the *Charter*.”

The 2017 *Charter* audits represent the first year of the 2017-2019 audit cycle. StoneBridge Business Partners (StoneBridge) was contracted to audit the 197 Catholic dioceses and eparchies in the United States on behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the USCCB Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, and the National Review Board.

StoneBridge Business Partners is a specialty consulting firm headquartered in Rochester, New York, which provides forensic, internal, and compliance auditing services to leading organizations nationwide. The substantive auditing processes utilized by StoneBridge are tailored to the specific objectives of each engagement. For the USCCB, StoneBridge worked with the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection (SCYP) to develop a comprehensive audit instrument, revise the charts used to collect

data, and train StoneBridge staff and diocesan/eparchial personnel on the content, expectations and requirements of the *Charter* audits.

During 2017, StoneBridge visited 61 dioceses and eparchies (“on-site audits”), and collected data (“data collection audits”) from 133 others. Of the 61 dioceses/eparchies that received on-site audits during 2017, three eparchies were found non-compliant with certain aspects of the *Charter*. To be found compliant with the data collection audit, the 133 dioceses/eparchies only needed to submit Charts A/B and C/D. Therefore, all of the dioceses and eparchies participating in the data collection audits were found compliant with the audit requirements. Two eparchies and one diocese did not participate in either type of audit.

For on-site audits, compliance with the *Charter* was determined based on implementation efforts during the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The audit included Articles 1 through 7, and 12 through 17. Articles 8, 9, 10, and 11 are not the subject of these audits, but information on each of these Articles can be found in Section One of the Annual Report.

INSTANCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

The Melkite Eparchy of Newton, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, and the Syrian Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance were found non-compliant with certain aspects of the *Charter* for the 2017 audit period.

All three eparchies were found non-compliant with Article 2 for the 2017 audit period. One

eparchy's review board has not met in several years, one did not have a functioning review board as of the end of the audit period, and the third did not meet the minimum requirement of five members and has not met in several years.

In addition to Article 2, the Syriac Diocese of Our Lady of Deliverance was also found non-compliant with Articles 12 and 13 for the 2017 audit period as safe environment training was not provided to priests, candidates for ordination, volunteers or children and youth and background clearances have not been obtained for priests, candidates, or volunteers.

StoneBridge will be following up with these eparchies at the close of the 2018 audit period to inquire about the progress made on rectifying these issues.

The Eparchy of St. Mary Queen of Peace and the Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle did not participate in either the on-site or data collection process, so no information on these locations could be included in this report.

In addition, the Diocese of St. Thomas, VI was unable to participate in the audit process due to hurricanes Irma and Maria.

AUDIT FINDINGS AND CONCERNS

Section I below details the issues discovered during the on-site audits that StoneBridge believes could have an impact on a diocese's/eparchy's ability to fully implement the *Charter*.

Section II details the suggestions StoneBridge made to dioceses/eparchies to help improve the current policies, procedures, and programs related to the *Charter*.

SECTION I

Tone at the Top—General complacency

- There is a wide range of resources allocated to *Charter* responsibilities across the dioceses and eparchies that StoneBridge visits. Each location is unique and reflects the direction provided by the Bishop. StoneBridge believes there are instances

where more resources are necessary within a diocese or eparchy to fully implement programs to adequately respond to the directive and spirit of the *Charter*. Resource shortages were observed regardless of compliance with the *Charter*.

Policies and Procedures

- Some dioceses/eparchies do not have reporting procedures available in printed form in all principal languages in which the liturgy is offered. This potentially limits the ability of non-English speaking populations to report instances of abuse.

Screening and Training Issues

- Dioceses and eparchies use various organizations to run background checks on clergy, employees, and volunteers. As a result, the thoroughness of the services provided varies significantly. This can result in dioceses/eparchies placing a high degree of reliance on an unreliable evaluation. StoneBridge suggested that dioceses/eparchies review their background check procedures and service providers to ensure they are thoroughly vetting individuals who could potentially be working with children and youth.
- StoneBridge noted some instances of background checks not being completed in a timely manner and/or poor recordkeeping of the background check database, which can lead to individuals going unscreened.
- StoneBridge observed isolated incidences where some clergy, employees, and volunteers were not trained or background checked, but have contact with children. It is important that dioceses/eparchies are effectively monitoring parishes and schools to ensure those working with children have the proper training and background checks.
- There are some dioceses/eparchies that reported a high percentage of children as untrained. The majority of the gaps are related to training in the parish religious education classes. For various reasons, dioceses/eparchies

reported difficulties in getting parishes to cooperate. It is the responsibility of the diocese/eparchy to work with parishes to ensure the training program for children/youth is working effectively.

Ongoing Education/Formation

- StoneBridge noted some instances where dioceses/eparchies did not have a program in place to acclimate foreign priests to the local culture. It is important for dioceses/eparchies to help international priests become accustomed to the culture of the United States and diocesan policies and procedures. StoneBridge suggested that dioceses/eparchies consider developing this as part of their continuing formation.
- Due to limited financial resources or vacancies of leadership, StoneBridge observed isolated instances where diocesan/eparchial programs for continuing formation of clergy were lacking. StoneBridge suggested that dioceses/eparchies work to restore these programs to ensure clergy are being provided the necessary support for ongoing formation.

Monitoring Issues

- StoneBridge observed that dioceses/eparchies struggled with effective monitoring of training and background checks at the parish/school level. Dioceses/eparchies not using a centralized database rely significantly on parishes and schools to ensure compliance with safe environment requirements. In these cases, the ability to verify compliance at the local level is limited unless those dioceses/eparchies conduct parish/school audits on a regular basis.

As of June 30, 2017, 95 dioceses indicated that they perform parish audits in some form on a regular basis and 10 perform them on an “as needed” basis.

Although not required by the *Charter*, StoneBridge continues to suggest to dioceses/eparchies that they consider the feasibility of implementing a process to periodically visit parish and school locations in order to review documentation and assess compliance with safe

environment requirements. These visits would allow the diocese/eparchy to gain a better understanding of how policies and procedures are being implemented at the parish and school level and assist in ensuring compliance with safe environment requirements.

- During our on-site audits, diocesan/eparchial safe environment personnel expressed difficulties in getting parishes and schools to respond to their requests. This affects the ability to effectively monitor compliance with the safe environment program requirements to ensure the safety of children and youth in the diocese/eparchy. In these instances, StoneBridge recommended greater involvement and program support by the diocesan/eparchial leadership.
- As part of the audit process, StoneBridge requested dioceses/eparchies to provide a list of employees and volunteers from select parishes/schools to demonstrate that the locations can support the training and background check figures being reported to the diocese/eparchy. For some, this proved to be a difficult task, especially for dioceses/eparchies that do not have a centralized database. The diocese/eparchy cannot effectively monitor compliance without at least being able to verify the number of people being reported from parishes/schools each year.
- StoneBridge noted some instances where dioceses/eparchies have clergy who have been removed from ministry, but there is no formal plan in place to monitor their whereabouts or activities. StoneBridge suggested that dioceses/eparchies collaborate internally and externally with other dioceses to create a program to formally monitor the whereabouts of clergy on prayer and penance.

SECTION 2

Complacency

- As an overall observation of the audit process for 2017, StoneBridge observed more dioceses/eparchies that were not as prepared for the

auditors as they had been in prior years. In some instances, StoneBridge noted a lack of supporting documentation, others did not prepare interview schedules ahead of time, and some did not provide audit documents until just prior to the auditors' arrival. The lack of preparation could potentially impede the auditor's ability to perform a thorough review. The opportunity to highlight potential areas of exposure prior to the arrival of the auditors could allow them to more strategically focus their efforts and resources.

- Prior to visiting each diocese/eparchy, StoneBridge reviewed prior year management letters, noting the suggestions that were historically made. The auditors continue to make repeat suggestions, as issues have not been addressed from prior years. While StoneBridge understands that the management letter comments are suggestions and not requirements (with the exception of those affecting compliance in the current year or potential compliance issues for future periods), StoneBridge remains hopeful that dioceses/eparchies will make the effort to improve the implementation and management of the *Charter*.

Policies and Procedures

- Although the last update to the *Charter* took place in 2011, StoneBridge continues to make suggestions to dioceses/eparchies regarding policies and procedures that fail to consider the 2011 *Charter* updates.
- StoneBridge noted some dioceses/eparchies appointing a member of the clergy to the position of Victim Assistance Coordinator. While a member of the clergy may be professionally qualified to fill the position, a victim/survivor of child sexual abuse by clergy may be less inclined to make a report to them. StoneBridge suggested that these dioceses and eparchies give some consideration to adding a lay person to this process.
- Article 12 requires dioceses/eparchies to maintain a "safe environment" program which the

diocesan/eparchial Bishop deems to be in accord with Catholic moral principles. This is typically done through a promulgation letter. As part of the audit process, StoneBridge requested to see a copy of the most recent promulgation letter from the Bishop. The auditors continued to observe outdated letters that were not all inclusive of programs being used by parishes and schools. Some are using letters from a previous Bishop. StoneBridge suggested that dioceses/eparchies review the safe environment programs currently being used and issue updated letters, if necessary.

- Some dioceses/eparchies include children as "trained" if the parents opted their children out of the safe environment training and the related materials were sent home to parents. The auditors explained that these children still need to be reported as opt-outs/absent as there is no way to verify that the parents are presenting the information to their children.
- StoneBridge observed some instances of dioceses/eparchies not requiring pastors to certify that they have received and implemented the safe environment curriculum at their parish. As suggested in Bishop Aymond's 2006 memo to the bishops, the diocese/eparchy should require documentation from each pastor that the parish has received the required safe environment program curricula and materials and has implemented them. StoneBridge suggested to dioceses/eparchies that they consider implementing some type of annual certification from pastors to assist in the monitoring of overall compliance with safe environment requirements.
- The implementation of a safe environment training program continues to be a challenge with respect to effective oversight of compliance and accurate reporting. Some database systems continue to be poorly managed, and the processes for collecting data from parish/school locations are inefficient or ineffective.
- In addition to reviewing allegations of clergy sexual abuse of minors, diocesan/eparchial review boards should also be periodically reviewing

their *Charter*-related policies and procedures. StoneBridge observed some instances where review boards have not reviewed the policies and procedures. Dioceses and eparchies are encouraged to use the resources and talents of their review board members to ensure that *Charter* related policies and procedures are relevant.

- StoneBridge observed some instances of dioceses/eparchies receiving calls regarding allegations that are later identified as boundary violations, or inappropriate behavior. Dioceses/eparchies are not always including these allegations on Chart A/B. For purposes of the audit, StoneBridge stressed the importance of including all reports of allegations received.
- Based on visits to the parishes/schools and discussions with diocesan/eparchial personnel, the auditors found that information on how to make a report of sexual abuse wasn't consistently displayed at the parishes or schools. Some parishes/schools publish the information in weekly bulletins, others display it in prominent locations. Dioceses/eparchies need to reinforce the importance of posting this information at the parishes/schools to ensure that everyone has access to the information should they need to use it.
- The auditors observed some instances where dioceses/eparchies were not requiring individuals to sign off on the Code of Conduct. It is important to ensure that individuals have read the Code and understand what is expected of them in their employment/ministry with the diocese/eparchy.

Safe Environment Refresher Training

- As of June 30, 2017, 145 dioceses/eparchies indicated that they require some type of refresher training. Although not required by the *Charter*, StoneBridge continues to suggest to dioceses/eparchies that they consider implementing a policy for renewing safe environment training for all clergy, employees, and volunteers on a periodic basis (suggested every 5 to 7 years). The refresher training is a good way to ensure that

everyone is aware of the importance of the program and will provide them with any new information regarding the protection of children and young people that may have developed from the last time they received training.

Background Check Renewals

- As of June 30, 2017, a total of 168 dioceses/eparchies indicated that they require background check renewals. Although not required by the *Charter*, StoneBridge continues to suggest to dioceses/eparchies that they consider renewing background checks periodically (suggested every 5 to 7 years). Renewing background checks would ensure that the diocese/eparchy has the most up to date information on those working with children and youth.
- As part of the audit procedures, StoneBridge inquired about the review process that occurs when background checks come back with issues. StoneBridge observed some instances where dioceses/eparchies do not have a list of disqualifying events to refer to when determining fitness for ministry with children and youth. The auditors suggested that these dioceses/eparchies consider standardizing this process by adopting a list of disqualifying events that would prohibit an individual from being alone with a child.

AUDIT PROCESS

The following paragraphs detail the audit process, including a description of what is to be expected of dioceses/eparchies with regard to audit documents, audit preparation, on-site visits, and the completion of the audit.

Prior to the start of the audit year, StoneBridge and the SCYP hosted two audit workshops. Diocesan/eparchial personnel attended the workshops via webinar, and StoneBridge reviewed the audit process, documentation requirements in detail (described below), and held a Q&A session for participants to ask any questions related to the audit process.

Whether participating in an on-site audit or a data collection audit, each diocese and eparchy is

required to complete two documents; Chart A/B and Chart C/D. These Charts were developed by StoneBridge and the SCYP, and are used to collect the information necessary from each diocese for inclusion in the Annual Report.

Chart A/B summarizes allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric as reported to a specific diocese during the audit year. Chart A/B contains information such as the number of allegations, the date the alleged abuse was reported, the approximate dates the alleged abuse occurred, the nature of the allegations including whether the victim is a current minor, the outcome of any investigations, if the allegation was reported to the diocesan review board and the status of the accused cleric as of the end of the audit period. Chart A/B also reports the number of abuse survivors and/or family members served by outreach during the audit period. Information from Chart A/B is used to compile statistics related to *Charter* Articles 1, 2, 4 and 5.

Chart C/D summarizes the compliance statistics related to Articles 12 and 13, such as:

- total children enrolled in Catholic schools and parish religious education programs
- total priests, deacons, candidates for ordination, employees, and volunteers ministering in the diocese or eparchy
- total number of individuals in each category that have received safe environment training and background evaluations
- programs used for training each category
- agencies used for background evaluations
- frequency of training and background evaluations
- method used for collecting the data from parishes and schools

Statistics from Charts A/B and C/D are presented in *Appendix I*.

During a data collection audit, StoneBridge reviewed both Charts A/B and C/D for completeness and clarified any ambiguities. Afterward, the Charts were forwarded to the SCYP as proof of the diocese/eparchy's participation.

In addition to Charts A/B and C/D, on-site audit participants are required to complete the Audit Instrument, which asks a diocese or eparchy to explain how they are compliant with each aspect of the *Charter*, by Article. During the audit,

StoneBridge verified Audit Instrument responses through interviews with diocesan/eparchial personnel and review of supporting documentation.

StoneBridge staff employ various interview techniques during the performance of these audits. The interview style tends to be more relaxed and conversational, versus interrogative. The intent is to learn about an interviewee's role(s) at the diocese or eparchy, specifically as his or her role(s) relate to *Charter* implementation. In addition, auditors may interview survivors of abuse and accused clerics, if any are willing. The objective of these interviews is to ensure that both survivors and the accused are being treated in accordance with guidelines established in the *Charter*.

Parish audits are an optional, but nonetheless important part of the audit methodology. During parish audits, StoneBridge auditors, often accompanied by diocesan/eparchial personnel, visit random diocesan/eparchial parishes and schools to assess the effectiveness of the *Charter* implementation program. StoneBridge staff review database records and a selection of physical files maintained at the parish or school to determine whether employees and volunteers are appropriately trained and background checked. The auditors interview parish/school personnel, and visually inspect posted information on how or where to report an allegation of abuse, such as victim/survivor assistance posters in vestibules, or contact information in weekly bulletins. The auditors also inquire as to the parishes' policies involving visiting priests.

Again this year, in an effort to offer more comprehensive information to dioceses and eparchies about *Charter* knowledge and implementation efforts at the parish and school level, StoneBridge offered a web-based audit survey to dioceses/eparchies. The survey was not a required part of the audit, but simply an optional assessment tool for dioceses and eparchies to distribute to parish/school locations. The survey consisted of 29 *Charter* related questions, such as "How would you rate the level of comprehension of safe environment related policies and procedures among staff, volunteers, and parishioners?" and "Are copies of the code of conduct and/or diocesan/eparchial standards of ministerial behavior made available to clergy and other personnel/volunteers of the parish?" The electronic surveys were to be completed by someone at each parish/school who has some responsibility for the implementation of

the *Charter* at that location. Survey results were transmitted electronically back to StoneBridge. Prior to arriving on-site, auditors reviewed and summarized the results of the survey, and shared these with diocesan/eparchial personnel.

At the completion of each on-site audit, the auditors prepare two letters. The first letter is called the Compliance Letter. This letter communicates to bishops and eparchs whether their dioceses/eparchies are found to be in compliance with the *Charter*. The Compliance Letter is brief, and states that the determination of compliance was “based upon our inquiry, observation and the review of specifically requested documentation furnished to StoneBridge Business Partners during the course of our audit.” Any specific instances of noncompliance, if applicable, would be identified in this communication and expanded upon accordingly.

The second letter, called the Management Letter, communicates to the bishop or eparch any suggestions that the auditors wish to make based on their findings during the on-site audit. Any comments made in these letters, as each Management Letter states, “do not affect compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, they are simply suggestions for consideration.” The receipt of a management letter is optional unless a comment is considered to be something that could potentially affect the compliance of the diocese or eparchy in the future, then a written management letter is mandatory. In this situation, the comments are separated in the letter from the other ones that are simply suggestions. The letter states that these issues must be resolved or it could affect compliance at their next on-site audit. As part of the audit process, StoneBridge follows up with these dioceses and eparchies at the end of the following audit year to see what progress they have made with the recommendations.

In any case, suggestions for improvements are delivered verbally during the on-site audit. A list of all the dioceses and eparchies that received on-site audits during 2017 can be found in *Appendix II* of this report.

At the completion of each data collection audit, a bishop or eparch will receive a data collection compliance letter. The letter states whether or not a diocese or eparchy is “in compliance with the data collection requirements for the 2016/2017 *Charter* audit period.” Receipt of this letter does not

imply that a diocese or eparchy is compliant with the *Charter*. Compliance with the *Charter* can only be effectively determined by participation in an on-site audit.

A diocese/eparchy may also receive a data collection memo with their compliance letter. These memos do not affect the compliance of the dioceses/eparchy. They are issued for situations that could potentially cause compliance issues in the future, during the next onsite audit.

A description of each Article and the procedures performed to determine compliance are detailed below:

ARTICLE I

Article 1 states, “Dioceses/eparchies are to reach out to victims/survivors and their families and demonstrate a sincere commitment to their spiritual and emotional well-being. This outreach may include counseling, spiritual assistance, support groups, and other social services agreed upon by the victim and the diocese/eparchy.” The most common form of outreach provided is payment or reimbursement for professional therapy services. Some dioceses/eparchies will offer other forms of financial support on a case-by-case basis.

When the victim/survivor comes forward him or herself, or with the assistance of a friend or relative, dioceses and eparchies are able to freely communicate with the survivor about available support services and assistance programs. When a survivor comes forward through an attorney, by way of a civil or bankruptcy claim, or the diocese/eparchy is made aware of an allegation as part of an ongoing investigation by law enforcement, dioceses and eparchies may be prevented from providing outreach directly to the survivor. In some cases, however, we find that dioceses and eparchies have attempted to fulfill their *Charter* obligation under Article 1 by communicating information about available support services and assistance programs to the agents of the survivors.

To assess compliance with Article 1, StoneBridge reviewed documentation to support efforts made during the current audit period to offer outreach to victims.

ARTICLE 2

Article 2 has multiple compliance components related to a diocese/eparchy's response to allegations of sexual abuse of minors. First, Article 2 requires that policies and procedures exist for prompt responses to allegations of sexual abuse of minors. StoneBridge reviewed these policies for completeness, including updates to policies for *Charter* revisions. In the most recent *Charter* update of 2011, the definition of "sexual abuse" was updated to include "the acquisition, possession, or distribution of child pornography by a cleric."

Second, Article 2 requires dioceses and eparchies to "have a competent person or persons to coordinate assistance for the immediate pastoral care of persons who report having been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other church personnel." Most dioceses and eparchies fulfill this requirement by appointing a Victim Assistance Coordinator ("VAC"). Survivors are directed to contact this individual to make reports about child sexual abuse by clergy. Sometimes the contact person is not the VAC, but a different individual working in the pastoral center, even a member of clergy (discussed earlier).

Article 2 also states that "procedures for those making a complaint are to be available in all principal languages in which the liturgy is celebrated in the diocese/eparchy and be the subject of public announcements at least annually." Dioceses and eparchies comply with this component by publishing versions of policies and procedures in multiple languages on their website. The existence of these procedures is typically made known to the public by an announcement in the diocesan/eparchial paper or newsletter, and some form of publication at the parish level.

The fourth component of compliance with Article 2 concerns the review board. The *Charter* requires every diocese and eparchy to have an independent review board "to advise the diocesan/eparchial bishop in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse of minors and his determination of a cleric's suitability for ministry." In addition, the review board is charged with regularly reviewing policies and procedures for responding to allegations. A diocese's or eparchy's compliance with this component of Article 2 is determined by interviews with review board members, and the review of redacted

meeting minutes and agendas from review board meetings that took place during the audit period.

ARTICLE 3

Article 3 prohibits dioceses and eparchies from requesting confidentiality as part of their settlements with survivors. Confidentiality is only allowed if requested by the survivor, and must be noted so in the text of the agreement. As evidence of compliance with this Article, dioceses and eparchies provided auditors with redacted copies of complete settlement agreements for review.

ARTICLE 4

Article 4 requires dioceses and eparchies to report an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to the public authorities and cooperate with their investigation. Additionally, dioceses/eparchies are to advise victims of their right to make a report to public authorities in every instance. Compliance with Article 4 is determined by a review of related policies and procedures, letters to local authorities regarding new allegations, and interviews with diocesan/eparchial personnel responsible for making the reports. In some instances, auditors reach out to the applicable public authorities and confirm diocesan cooperation.

Article 4 also covers the reporting protocol for an allegation of abuse against an individual who habitually lacks the use of reason. The *Charter* was updated in 2011 to include in the definition of a "minor" any adult who "habitually lacks the use of reason." During the review of policies and procedures, auditors attempted to locate specific language regarding this matter in relevant diocesan and eparchial policies.

ARTICLE 5

Article 5 of the *Charter* has two components: removal of credibly accused clerics in accordance with canon law, and the fair treatment of all clerics against whom allegations have been made, whether the allegations are deemed credible or not. Accused clerics should be accorded the same rights as victims during an investigation of an allegation.

They should be offered civil and canonical counsel, accorded the presumption of innocence, and given the opportunity to receive professional therapy services.

Compliance with Article 5 is determined by a review of policies and procedures, review of relevant documentation (such as decrees of dismissal from the clerical state, decrees mandating a life of prayer and penance, prohibitions concerning the exercise of public ministry, etc.), and interviews with diocesan/eparchial personnel.

ARTICLE 6

Article 6 is concerned with establishing and communicating appropriate behavioral guidelines for individuals ministering to minors. Compliance with Article 6 is determined by a review of a diocese/eparchy's Code of Conduct, related policies and procedures, and through interviews with diocesan/eparchial personnel.

ARTICLE 7

Article 7 requires dioceses/eparchies to be open and transparent with their communications to the public regarding allegations of sexual abuse of minors by clergy, especially those parishes that may have been affected. The *Charter* does not address the timeliness of such communication, so for the purposes of our audit, a diocese or eparchy was considered compliant if the diocese could demonstrate that at the very least, a cleric's removal is formally announced to the affected parish community.

ARTICLE 8-11

Refer to Chapter One for information regarding these articles, as they are not subject to the audit.

ARTICLE 12

Article 12 of the *Charter* calls for the education of children and those who minister to children about ways to create and maintain a safe environment for children and young people. For a diocese or eparchy to be considered compliant with Article 12, the bishop and his staff must be able to demonstrate

that training programs exist, the bishop approves the programs, and the appropriate individuals have participated in the training.

During the audits, StoneBridge reviewed training program materials, letters of promulgation regarding the programs, and a database or other record-keeping method by which a diocese/eparchy tracks whether or not individuals have been trained.

ARTICLE 13

Article 13 of the *Charter* requires dioceses and eparchies to evaluate the background of clergy, candidates for ordination, educators, employees, and volunteers who minister to children and young people. Specifically, they are to utilize resources of law enforcement and other community agencies. To assess compliance, StoneBridge reviewed the background check policy and a database or other record-keeping method by which a diocese/eparchy tracks the background check clearances.

Article 13 also addresses the policies and procedures in place for obtaining necessary suitability information about priests or deacons who are visiting from other dioceses or orders. To determine compliance, StoneBridge requested copies of letters of suitability received during the period, and inquired as to the diocese/eparchy's retention policy for those letters.

ARTICLE 14

Article 14 governs the relocation of accused clerics between dioceses. Before clerics who have been accused of sexual abuse of a minor can relocate for residence, the cleric's home bishop must communicate suitability status to the receiving bishop. To assess compliance with Article 14, auditors reviewed diocesan/eparchial policies to understand the procedures for receiving transferred and visiting priests and deacons. StoneBridge also inquired of the appropriate personnel to confirm that practice was consistent with the policy.

ARTICLE 15

Article 15 has two components, only one of which is subject to our audit. That requirement is for bishops

to have periodic meetings with the Major Superiors of Men whose clerics are serving within a diocese or eparchy. The purpose of these meetings is to determine each party's role and responsibilities in the event that an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor is brought against a religious order cleric. To assess compliance with Article 15, auditors reviewed copies of calendar appointments, letters documenting the meetings, and discussions with Bishops and delegates who were involved in the meetings.

ARTICLE 16

Article 16 requires dioceses and eparchies to cooperate with other organizations, especially within their communities, to conduct research in the area of child sexual abuse. At minimum, dioceses and eparchies should participate in the annual Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), the results of which are included in the SCYP's Annual Report.

Auditors inquired of dioceses and eparchies as to what other churches and ecclesial communities, religious bodies, or institutions of learning they have worked with in the area of child abuse prevention.

ARTICLE 17

Article 17 covers formation of clergy, from seminary to retirement. Compliance with this Article is assessed by interviewing diocesan/eparchial personnel responsible for formation of clergy and candidates for ordination, and by review of supporting documentation such as registration forms for clergy seminars, textbooks used for the formation of candidates for the permanent diaconate, and brochures describing priestly retreats.

CONCLUSION

By authorizing these annual audits, the bishops and eparchs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops demonstrate their commitment to the protection of children and the prevention of sexual abuse of the vulnerable among us. Prevention is made possible by the commitment and effort of the personnel involved in the *Charter's* implementation. We recognize the dedication of these individuals

and we are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with them throughout the year. Finally, we thank the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, the National Review Board, and the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection for their ongoing support of the audit process.

DEFINITIONS

The definitions presented below refer to select terms used in this report.

- “Bishop” refers to the head of any diocese or eparchy, and is meant to include bishops, eparchs, and apostolic administrators.
- “Candidates for ordination” refers to all men in formation, including seminarians and those preparing for the permanent diaconate.
- “Canon Law” refers to the body and laws of regulations made by or adopted by ecclesiastical authority for the government of the Christian organization and its members.
- “Children and youth” includes all students enrolled in diocesan/eparchial schools and religious education classes.
- “Clergy” is defined as the body of all people ordained for religious duties. In the context of the *Charter*, clergy includes priests and deacons.
- “Deacons” includes religious order or diocesan deacons in active or supply ministry in a diocese/eparchy (including retired deacons who continue to celebrate occasional sacraments).
- “Educators” includes paid teachers, principals, and administrators in diocesan/eparchial and parish schools.
- “Employees” refers to paid persons (other than priests/deacons or educators) who are employed by and work directly for the diocese/eparchy or parish/school such as central office/chancery/pastoral center personnel, youth ministers who are paid, parish ministers, school support staff, and rectory personnel.
- “Investigation ongoing” describes an allegation in which the diocese/eparchy has started an investigation, but has not yet completed it and has not yet determined credibility.
- “Laicized” or more correctly, “removed from the clerical state” results in the cessation of obligations and rights proper to the clerical state.

- “Minor” includes children and youth under age 18, and any individual over the age of 18 who habitually lacks the use of reason.
- “Priests” includes religious order or diocesan priests in active or supply ministry in a diocese/eparchy (including retired clerics who continue to celebrate occasional sacraments).
- “Sexual Abuse” in context to the *Charter* involves a “delict against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue committed by a cleric with a minor below the age of eighteen years.” In addition, as of 2011, it includes “the acquisition, possession, or distribution by a cleric of pornographic images of minors under the age of fourteen, for purposes of sexual gratification, by whatever means or using whatever technology.”
- “Substantiated” describes an allegation for which the diocese/eparchy has completed an investigation and the allegation has been deemed credible/true based upon the evidence gathered through the investigation.
- “Survivor/victim” refers to any victim of clergy sexual abuse while he or she was a minor, as defined above.
- “Unable to be proven” describes an allegation for which the diocese/eparchy was unable to complete the investigation due to lack of information.
- “Unsubstantiated” describes an allegation for which an investigation is complete and the allegation has been deemed not credible/false based upon the evidence gathered through the investigation.
- “Volunteers” refers to unpaid personnel who assist the diocese/eparchy (including parishes and schools) such as catechists, youth ministers, and coaches.

APPENDIX I: STATISTICS

For parish audits, StoneBridge visited 110 parishes/schools in 28 dioceses, up from the 97 parishes (in 23 dioceses) that were visited last year. Of the 194 locations participating in the overall audit process this year, 95 indicated that they perform parish audits in some form on a regular basis and 10 perform them on an “as needed” basis. Please refer to *Appendix III* for a list of dioceses that requested parish audits during their scheduled on-site audit by StoneBridge auditors in 2017.

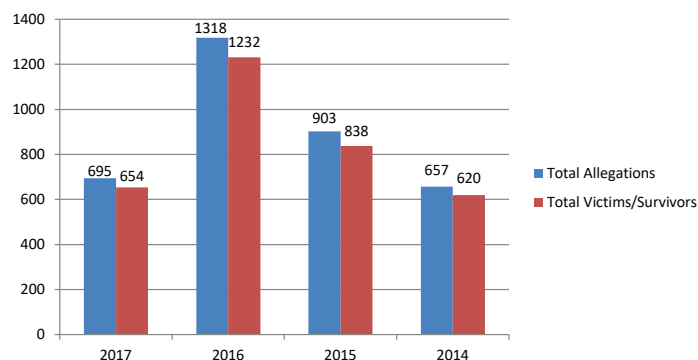
Of the 194 dioceses/eparchies participating in the overall audit process this year, nine dioceses elected to use the parish survey. This figure is down from the fifteen dioceses that elected to use the survey in 2016. Any comments or concerns expressed by participants within in the survey were communicated with diocesan/eparchial personnel during the audit for their consideration.

Of the 133 data collection audits completed for the 2017 audit year, StoneBridge only issued two memos, which highlight potential problems. The issues noted this year involved timely and complete communication by individual parishes to their respective dioceses involving their safe environment and background evaluation reporting.

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, 654 survivors of child sexual abuse by clergy came forward

in 129 Catholic dioceses and eparchies involving 695 allegations. These allegations represent reports of abuse between a specific alleged victim and a specific alleged accused, whether the abuse was a single incident or a series of incidents over a period of time. The abuse was purported to have occurred from the 1940’s to the present. Chart I-1 below summarizes the total allegations and total victims/survivors from 2017 through 2017.

Chart I-1: Total Allegations/Total Victims 2014–2017

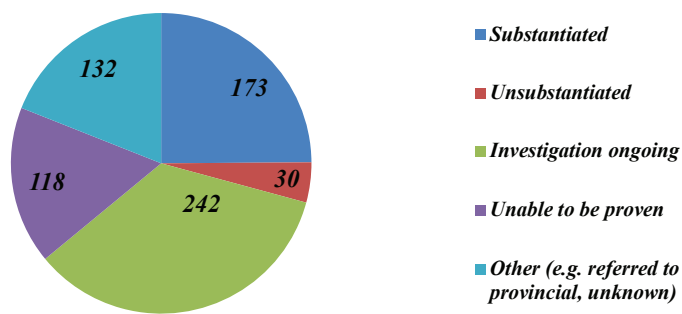


Compared to 2015 and 2016, the number of allegations has decreased significantly. This is due to fewer bankruptcy proceedings and statute of

limitation changes. The number of allegations received during 2017 is more similar to the figures reported back in 2014.

For purposes of this audit, the investigation of an allegation has five potential outcomes. An allegation is substantiated when the diocese/eparchy has completed an investigation and the allegation has been deemed credible/true based upon the evidence gathered through the investigation. An allegation is unsubstantiated when an investigation is complete and the allegation has been deemed not credible/false based upon the evidence gathered through the investigation. An allegation is unable to be proven when the diocese/eparchy was unable to complete the investigation due to lack of information. This is generally the outcome of an investigation when the accused cleric is deceased, or his status or location is unknown. Since the information collected was as of June 30, 2017, some allegations were still under investigation. These were categorized as “investigation ongoing.” In other cases, an investigation had not yet begun for various reasons or the allegation had been referred to another diocese/eparchy. These were categorized as “Other.” Chart 1-2 below summarizes the status of the 695 allegations as of June 30, 2017.

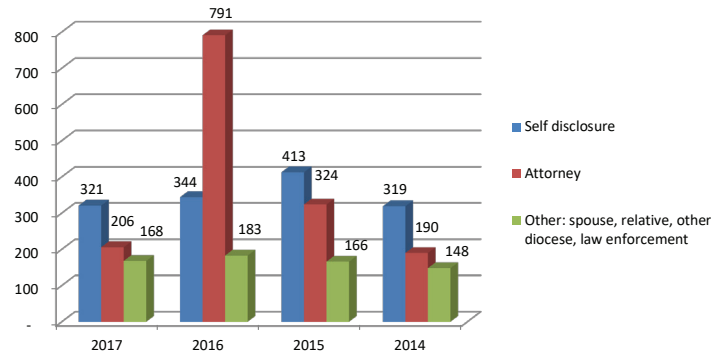
Chart 1-2: Status of Allegations as of June 30, 2017



A total of 321 allegations were brought to the attention of the diocesan/eparchial representatives through self-disclosure, making this the principal reporting method during the 2016/2017 audit period. The second most popular method of reporting was through an attorney, which represented 206 of the total allegations. The remaining 168 reports were made by spouses, relatives, or other

representatives such as other dioceses, eparchies, religious orders, or law enforcement officials who brought the allegations to the attention of the diocese/eparchy on behalf of the survivor. Chart 1-3 below summarizes the ways in which allegations were received from 2014 through 2017.

Chart 1-3: Methods of Reporting Allegations 2014-2017



Compared to 2016, the number of allegations reported through an attorney has decreased significantly. As previously noted, this was due to fewer bankruptcy proceedings and changes in state statutes of limitations.

During the current audit period, dioceses and eparchies provided outreach and support to 205 victims/survivors and their families who reported during this audit period. Continued support was provided to 1,702 victims/survivors and their families who reported abuse in prior audit periods.

As part of the audit procedures, StoneBridge asked dioceses and eparchies to report on Chart A/B the date the abuse was reported as well as the date outreach services were offered. StoneBridge then compared these dates to determine how promptly dioceses and eparchies responded to victims/survivors to offer outreach as required by Article 1. Of the 652 victims/survivors who reported during the audit period, 57%, or 374 of them were offered outreach. Those who were not offered outreach were instances where the victim stated in their report to the diocese or eparchy that they did not want any help, anonymous reporting, lack of contact information for the victim, and victims who came through an attorney. Of the total who did receive an offer for outreach, 80%, or 298 of them were offered outreach within 10 days of reporting the abuse, 10%, or 38 were offered outreach between 11

and 30 days of reporting, and 10%, or 38 individuals were above 30 days due to specific circumstances related to attorneys, lawsuits, investigations, or difficulty in contacting the victim.

There were no allegations involving an adult who “habitually lacks the use of reason” during the 2017 audit period.

Of the allegations of child sexual abuse by clergy reported during the audit period, 24 involved current minors. Of this total, 15 were male and 9 were female.

Of the 24 allegations made by current minors, six were substantiated as of June 30, 2017 and the clergy were removed from ministry. These allegations came from three different dioceses. Four of the six allegations were against the same priest.

Eight of the 24 allegations from minors were unsubstantiated as of June 30, 2017.

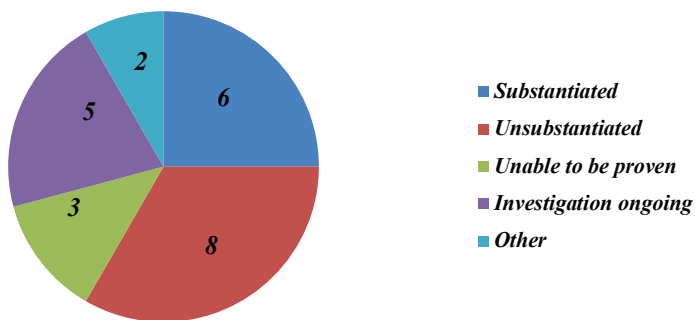
Three of the 24 allegations from minors were categorized as “unable to be proven” as of June 30, 2017.

Investigations were still in process for five of the allegations at June 30, 2017. The auditors will follow up with these dioceses/eparchies at the end of the 2018 audit period to inquire about the status of these allegations.

In the “other” category, one allegation was referred to the religious order for their investigation and one was referred to an international diocese.

Chart 4-1 below summarizes the status of each of the 24 claims made by current year minors as of June 30, 2017.

Chart 4-1: Status of Claims by Minors as of June 30, 2017

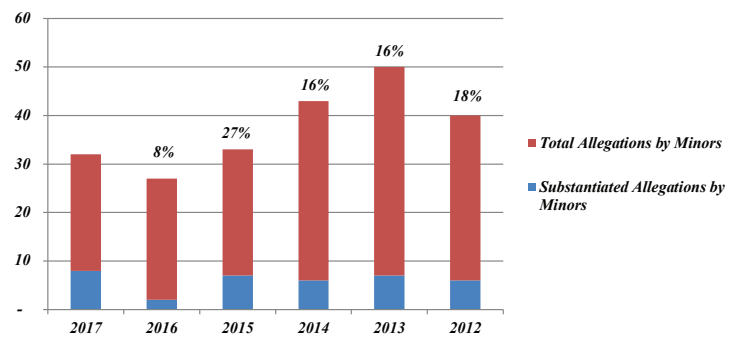


There were eight allegations involving minors from the 2016 audit period that were listed as investigation ongoing at the end of the audit period.

As part of the audit procedures for the 2017 audit period, StoneBridge followed up with dioceses/eparchies on these claims to inquire of the outcome. Of the eight, one was substantiated, two were unsubstantiated, two were determined to be more of a boundary issue and not sexual abuse, and three were unable to be proven as of the end of the 2017 audit period.

Chart 4-2 below compares the percentage of substantiated claims by minors to total claims by minors over the last six years.

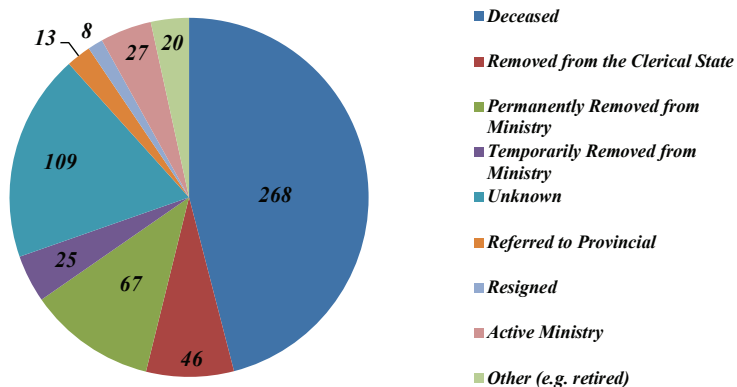
Chart 4-2: Substantiated Allegations Versus Total Allegations Made by Current Minors 2012 - 2017



The number of clerics accused of sexual abuse of a minor during the audit period totaled 583. The accused clerics were categorized as priests, deacons, unknown, or other. An “unknown” cleric is used for a situation in which the victim/survivor was unable to provide the identity of the accused. “Other” represents a cleric from another diocese for which details of ordination and/or incardination were not available/provided. Accused priests for the audit period totaled 493. Of this total, 389 were diocesan priests, 77 belonged to a religious order, and 27 were incardinated elsewhere. There were eight deacons accused during the audit period. Allegations brought against “unknown” clerics totaled 65, and 17 “other” clerics were accused. Of the total identified clerics, 231 or 40% of them had been accused in previous audit periods.

See Chart 5-1 below for a summary of the status of the 583 accused clerics as of June 30, 2017.

Chart 5-1: Status of Accused Clerics as of June 30, 2017



During the 2017 audit period, nine allegations were brought against clerics for possession of child

pornography. As of June 30, 2017, two allegations were substantiated and the priests were permanently removed from ministry, two were unsubstantiated, two were unable to be proven, one was still under investigation, and two were awaiting a response from local police.

These nine clerics are included in the statistics presented in Chart 5-1 above.

StoneBridge compiled the current year safe environment training data below. The figures provided by dioceses/eparchies for Article 12 were not audited by StoneBridge. It is important to note that the figures reported in the adult categories below represent individuals who have been trained at least once. The *Charter* does not require clergy, employees, and volunteers to renew safe environment training, but some diocese and eparchies choose to require some form of refresher training.

Safe Environment Training

| 12-1: Children | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Dioceses/eparchies participating | 194 | 194 | 190 | 188 | 191 | 189 | 187 |
| Total children | 4,411,279 | 4,538,756 | 4,666,507 | 4,828,615 | 4,910,240 | 4,993,243 | 5,143,426 |
| Total children trained | 4,117,869 | 4,267,014 | 4,371,211 | 4,484,609 | 4,645,700 | 4,684,192 | 4,847,942 |
| Percent trained | 93.3% | 94.0% | 93.7% | 92.9% | 94.6% | 93.8% | 94.3% |
| Percent opted out | 1.0% | 1.1% | 1.2% | 1.0% | 1.2% | 1.5% | 1.2% |

| 12-2: Priests | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total priests | 33,917 | 35,815 | 36,158 | 35,470 | 36,131 | 38,199 | 38,374 |
| Total priests trained | 33,448 | 35,475 | 35,987 | 35,319 | 35,914 | 38,006 | 38,150 |
| Percent trained | 98.6% | 99.1% | 99.5% | 99.6% | 99.4% | 99.5% | 99.4% |

| 12-3: Deacons | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total deacons | 16,328 | 16,423 | 16,300 | 16,164 | 16,245 | 15,796 | 15,342 |
| Total deacons trained | 16,177 | 16,294 | 16,251 | 16,089 | 16,129 | 15,680 | 15,259 |
| Percent trained | 99.1% | 99.2% | 99.7% | 99.5% | 99.3% | 99.3% | 99.5% |

| 12-4: Candidates for Ordination | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total candidates | 7,028 | 6,902 | 6,577 | 6,602 | 6,458 | 6,372 | 6,474 |
| Total candidates trained | 6,944 | 6,847 | 6,473 | 6,503 | 6,360 | 6,232 | 6,385 |
| Percent trained | 98.8% | 99.2% | 98.4% | 98.5% | 98.5% | 97.8% | 98.6% |

| 12-5: Educators | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total educators | 172,832 | 162,988 | 164,628 | 161,669 | 168,782 | 168,067 | 159,689 |
| Total educators trained | 170,678 | 159,764 | 162,803 | 160,757 | 167,953 | 166,311 | 158,390 |
| Percent trained | 98.8% | 98.0% | 98.9% | 99.4% | 99.5% | 99.0% | 99.2% |

| 12-6: Other Employees | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total other employees | 270,750 | 269,250 | 269,090 | 256,668 | 257,222 | 258,380 | 249,133 |
| Total other employees trained | 263,606 | 258,978 | 260,356 | 250,087 | 251,146 | 249,918 | 240,180 |
| Percent trained | 97.4% | 96.2% | 96.8% | 97.4% | 97.6% | 96.7% | 96.4% |

| 12-7: Volunteers | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total volunteers | 2,088,272 | 1,984,063 | 1,976,248 | 1,971,201 | 1,936,983 | 1,920,001 | 1,850,149 |
| Total volunteers trained | 2,041,019 | 1,912,152 | 1,930,262 | 1,931,872 | 1,902,143 | 1,876,558 | 1,781,849 |
| Percent trained | 97.7% | 96.4% | 97.7% | 98.0% | 98.2% | 97.7% | 96.3% |

StoneBridge compiled the current year background evaluation data below from the 194 dioceses and eparchies that participated in either an on-site or data collection audit. The figures provided by dioceses/eparchies for Article 13 were not audited by StoneBridge. As with Article 12, these figures represent individuals who have been background checked at least once. The *Charter* is silent as to the frequency of screening, but many dioceses and eparchies have begun rescreening their clergy, employees, and volunteers.

Background Evaluations

| 13-1: Priests | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Dioceses/eparchies participating | 194 | 194 | 190 | 188 | 191 | 189 | 187 |
| Total priests | 33,917 | 35,815 | 36,158 | 35,470 | 36,131 | 38,199 | 38,374 |
| Total priests background checked | 33,540 | 35,346 | 35,720 | 35,308 | 35,970 | 38,045 | 38,129 |
| Percent checked | 98.9% | 98.7% | 98.8% | 99.5% | 99.6% | 99.6% | 99.4% |

| 13-2: Deacons | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total deacons | 16,328 | 16,423 | 16,300 | 16,164 | 16,245 | 15,796 | 15,342 |
| Total deacons background checked | 16,222 | 16,050 | 16,257 | 16,006 | 16,199 | 15,695 | 15,291 |
| Percent checked | 99.4% | 97.7% | 99.7% | 99.0% | 99.7% | 99.4% | 99.7% |

| 13-3: Candidates for Ordination | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total candidates | 7,028 | 6,902 | 6,577 | 6,602 | 6,458 | 6,372 | 6,474 |
| Total candidates background checked | 6,971 | 6,841 | 6,577 | 6,568 | 6,428 | 6,320 | 6,386 |
| Percent checked | 99.2% | 99.1% | 100.0% | 99.5% | 99.5% | 99.2% | 98.6% |

| 13-4: Educators | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total educators | 172,832 | 162,988 | 164,628 | 161,669 | 168,782 | 168,067 | 159,689 |
| Total educators background checked | 170,719 | 157,468 | 158,556 | 160,273 | 168,013 | 164,935 | 158,855 |
| Percent checked | 98.8% | 96.6% | 96.3% | 99.1% | 99.5% | 98.1% | 99.5% |

| 13-5: Other Employees | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total other employees | 270,750 | 269,250 | 269,090 | 256,668 | 257,222 | 258,380 | 249,133 |
| Total other employees background checked | 265,599 | 260,409 | 263,690 | 251,189 | 253,587 | 250,092 | 241,063 |
| Percent checked | 98.1% | 96.7% | 98.0% | 97.9% | 98.6% | 96.8% | 96.8% |

| 13-6: Volunteers | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total volunteers | 2,088,777 | 1,984,063 | 1,976,248 | 1,971,201 | 1,936,983 | 1,920,001 | 1,850,149 |
| Total volunteers background checked | 2,022,360 | 1,927,053 | 1,935,310 | 1,931,612 | 1,898,136 | 1,861,160 | 1,790,178 |
| Percent checked | 96.8% | 97.1% | 97.9% | 98.0% | 98.0% | 96.9% | 96.8% |

APPENDIX II: ON-SITE AUDITS PERFORMED BY STONEBRIDGE DURING 2017

- Diocese of Albany
- Diocese of Allentown
- Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
- Diocese of Arlington
- Diocese of Austin
- Diocese of Baton Rouge
- Diocese of Bismarck
- Archdiocese of Boston
- Diocese of Brownsville
- Diocese of Buffalo
- Diocese of Burlington
- Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
- Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma
- Chaldean Catholic Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle of Detroit
- Diocese of Charleston
- Diocese of Charlotte
- Diocese of Cheyenne
- Archdiocese of Chicago
- Archdiocese of Cincinnati
- Diocese of Dallas
- Diocese of Davenport
- Archdiocese of Denver
- Archdiocese of Detroit
- Diocese of Phoenix
- Diocese of Duluth
- Diocese of El Paso
- Eparchy of Phoenix
- Diocese of Fort Worth
- Diocese of Gaylord
- Diocese of Green Bay
- Diocese of Harrisburg
- Archdiocese of Hartford
- Diocese of Helena
- Diocese of Jefferson City
- Diocese of Joliet
- Melkite Eparchy of Newton
- Diocese of Monterey
- Diocese of Nashville
- Diocese of Norwich
- Archdiocese of Omaha
- Diocese of Orange
- Diocese of Pittsburgh
- Diocese of Portland, ME
- Diocese of Reno
- Diocese of Rockville Centre
- Diocese of Salt Lake City
- Diocese of San Angelo
- Diocese of Scranton
- Diocese of Shreveport
- Diocese of Sioux City
- Diocese of Sioux Falls
- Diocese of Spokane
- Diocese of Springfield, IL
- Diocese of Springfield, MA
- St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy
- Diocese of St. Petersburg
- Diocese of Syracuse
- Syrian Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance
- The Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter
- Diocese of Trenton
- Diocese of Youngstown

APPENDIX III: 2017 ONSITE AUDITS INVOLVING STONEBRIDGE PARISH/SCHOOL VISITS

- Diocese of Albany
- Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
- Diocese of Arlington
- Diocese of Austin
- Archdiocese of Boston
- Diocese of Buffalo
- Diocese of Burlington
- Archdiocese of Chicago
- Archdiocese of Cincinnati
- Archdiocese of Detroit
- Diocese of Duluth
- Diocese of Fort Worth
- Diocese of Green Bay
- Archdiocese of Hartford
- Diocese of Jefferson City
- Diocese of Joliet
- Diocese of Monterey
- Diocese of Orange
- Diocese of Pittsburgh
- Diocese of Portland, ME
- Diocese of Reno
- Diocese of Salt Lake City
- Diocese of Scranton
- Diocese of Spokane
- Diocese of Springfield, IL
- Diocese of Springfield, MA
- Diocese of St. Petersburg
- Diocese of Syracuse

SECTION II

2017



CHAPTER THREE

2017 SURVEY OF ALLEGATIONS AND COSTS

A SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

INTRODUCTION

At their Fall General Assembly in November 2004, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to design and conduct an annual survey of all the dioceses and eparchies whose bishops or eparchs are members of the USCCB. The purpose of this survey is to collect information on new allegations of sexual abuse of minors and the clergy against whom these allegations were made. The survey also gathers information on the amount of money dioceses and eparchies have expended as a result of allegations as well as the amount they have paid for child protection efforts. The national level aggregate results from this survey for each calendar year are prepared for the USCCB and reported in its *Annual Report of the Implementation of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.”* A complete set of the aggregate results for ten years (2004 to 2013) is available on the USCCB website.

Beginning in 2014, the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection changed the reporting period for this survey to coincide with the July 1-June 30 reporting period that is used by dioceses and eparchies for their annual audits. Since that time, the annual survey of allegations and costs captures all allegations

reported to dioceses and eparchies between July 1 and June 30. This year’s survey, the 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs, covers the period between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. Where appropriate, this report presents data in tables for audit year 2017 compared to audit year 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016), 2015 (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015), and 2014 (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014).¹

The questionnaire for the *2017 Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs* was designed by CARA in consultation with the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and was nearly identical to the versions used from 2004 to 2016. As in previous years, CARA prepared an online version of the survey and hosted it on the CARA website.

Bishops and eparchs received information about the process for completing the survey in their mid-July correspondence from the USCCB and were asked to provide the name of the contact person who would complete the survey. The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) also invited major superiors of religious institutes of men to complete a similar survey for their congregations, provinces, or monasteries. Religious institutes of brothers also

¹ Before 2014, this survey was collected on a calendar year basis. For discussion of previous trends in the data, refer to the 2013 Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs as reported in the *2013 Annual Report on the Implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, published by the USCCB Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection.

participated in the survey of men’s institutes, as they have since 2015.

CARA completed data collection for the 2017 annual survey on December 7, 2017. All but one of the 196 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB completed the survey, for a response rate of 99 percent. The non-responding diocese, the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, was hit by two catastrophic hurricanes during September, 2017. Their diocesan website says all “islands are now experiencing problems with electrical power [and] communications,” among other challenges. A total of 171 of the 232 religious institutes that belong to CMSM responded to the survey, for a response rate of 74 percent. The overall response rate for dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes was 86 percent, similar to the response rate of 88 percent for this survey last year. Once CARA had received all data, it then prepared the national level summary tables and graphs of the findings for the period from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

DIOCESES AND EPARCHIES

The Data Collection Process

Dioceses and eparchies began submitting their data for the 2017 survey in July 2017. CARA and the Secretariat contacted every diocese or eparchy that had not sent in a contact name by late September, 2017 to obtain the name of a contact person to complete the survey. CARA and the Secretariat sent multiple reminders by e-mail and telephone to these contact persons, to encourage a high response rate.

By December 7, 2017, 195 of the 196 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB had responded to the survey, for a response rate of 99 percent. The participation rate among dioceses and eparchies has been nearly unanimous each year of this survey. Beginning in 2004 and 2005 with response rates of 93 and 94 percent, respectively, the response reached 99 percent each year from 2006 to 2014, was 100 percent for 2015 and 2016, and is 99 percent this year.

A copy of the survey instrument for dioceses and eparchies is included in this report in Appendix I.

Credible Allegations Received by Dioceses and Eparchies

As is shown in Table 1, the responding dioceses and eparchies reported that between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, they received 373 new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a diocesan or eparchial priest or deacon. These allegations were made by 369 individuals against 290 priests or deacons. Of the 373 new allegations reported during this reporting period (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017), four allegations (1 percent) involved children under the age of 18 in 2017. Nearly all of the other allegations were made by adults who are alleging abuse when they were minors.

Table 1. New Credible Allegations Received by Dioceses and Eparchies

| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | Change (+/-) 2015-2016 | Percentage Change |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Victims | 291 | 314 | 728 | 369 | -366 | -50% |
| Allegations | 294 | 321 | 730 | 373 | -357 | -49% |
| Offenders | 211 | 227 | 361 | 290 | -71 | -20% |

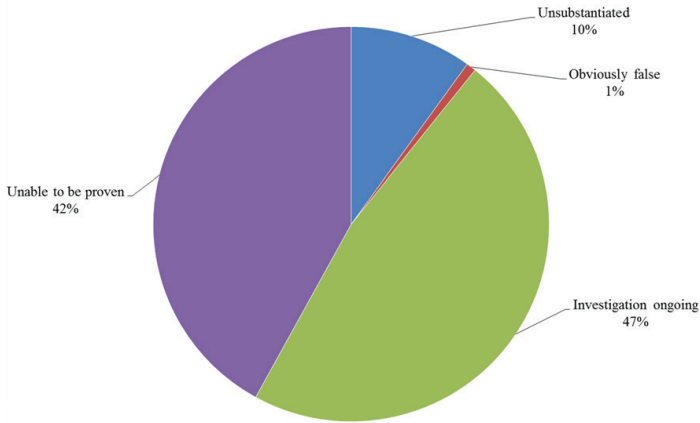
Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2017

Compared to the previous year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016), the numbers of victims, allegations, and offenders reported for July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 represent a 49 percent decrease in allegations, a 50 percent decrease in victims, and a 20 percent decrease in offenders.

Determination of Credibility

Every diocese and eparchy follows a process to determine the credibility of any allegation of clergy sexual abuse, as set forth in canon law and the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. Figure 1 presents the outcome for allegations received between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 that did not meet the threshold for credibility during that time period. Dioceses and eparchies were asked to categorize new allegations this year that have not met the threshold for credibility into one of four categories: unsubstantiated, obviously false, investigation ongoing, or unable to be proven.

Figure 1. Determination of Credibility for New Allegations: Dioceses and Eparchies

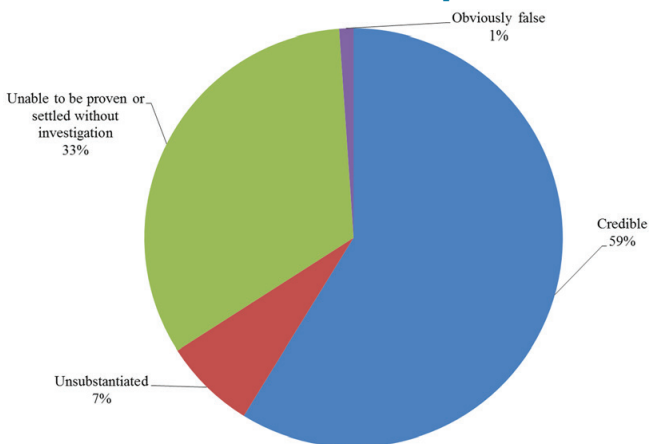


Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

As can be seen in Figure 1, nearly half of these allegations are still being investigated (47 percent), about four in ten are unable to be proven (42 percent), one in ten (10 percent) is unsubstantiated, and 1 percent (ten allegations) have been determined to be false.

Figure 2 presents the disposition for allegations received before July 1, 2016 that were resolved by June 30, 2017. Six in ten (59 percent) were found to be credible, a third (33 percent) were unable to be proven or settled without investigation, 7 percent were found to be unsubstantiated, and 1 percent (2 allegations) were determined to be false.

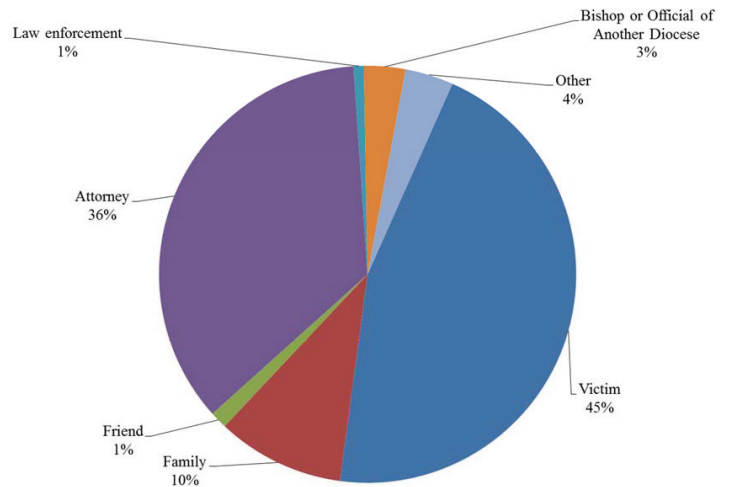
Figure 2. Resolution in 2017 of Allegations Received before July 1, 2016: Dioceses and Eparchies



Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 3 illustrates the way in which the 373 new credible allegations of abuse were reported to the dioceses or eparchies between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. More than two-fifths of new allegations were reported by a victim (45 percent) and more than a third by an attorney (36 percent). One in ten was reported by a family member (10 percent) and less than one in 20 were reported by the bishop or an official from another diocese (3 percent), a friend of the victim (1 percent), or law enforcement (1 percent). Four percent were reported by an “other” source, such as a parishioner, a Catholic school administrator, or a counselor.

Figure 3. Method of Reporting Allegations of Abuse: Dioceses and Eparchies

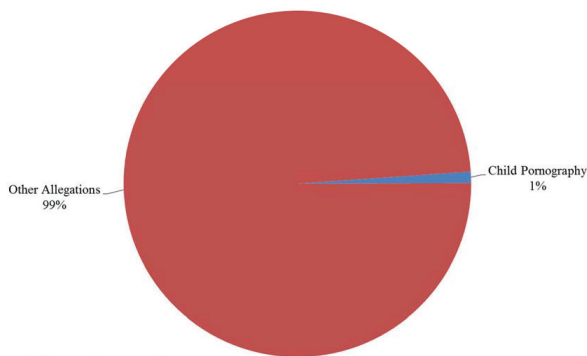


Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Compared to year 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016), there are more allegations reported by victims (45 percent compared to 20 percent) or by a family member (10 percent compared to 3 percent). There are fewer allegations, on the other hand, reported by an attorney (36 percent compared to 73 percent).

Figure 4 presents the percentage of all new allegations of abuse that were cases involving solely child pornography. Of the 373 total allegations from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, four allegations solely involved child pornography.

Figure 4. Percentage of Allegations Involving Solely Child Pornography: Dioceses and Eparchies



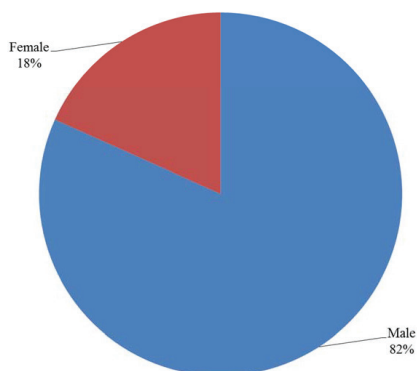
Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

The percentages in Figure 4 are similar to that reported for the previous year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016), where three allegations (or less than 1 percent) involved solely child pornography.

Victims, Offenses, and Offenders

The sex of eight of the 369 alleged victims reported between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 was not identified in the allegation. Among those for whom the sex of the victim was reported, 82 percent (299 victims) were male and 18 percent (67 victims) were female. This proportion is illustrated in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Sex of Abuse Victim: Dioceses and Eparchies



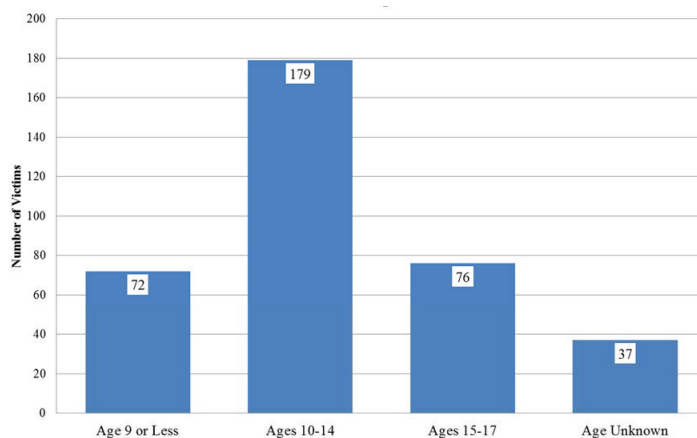
Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

The percentages reported for year 2016 in Figure 5 are similar to those reported for year 2015 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016), where 78 percent of the victims were male and 22 percent were female.

Nearly half of victims (48 percent) were between the ages of 10 and 14 when the alleged abuse began. One-fifth was between the ages of 15 and 17 (20 percent) or under age 10 (19 percent). For one-tenth, the age could not be determined (10 percent).

Figure 6 presents the distribution of victims by age at the time the alleged abuse began.

Figure 6. Age of Victim When Abuse Began: Dioceses and Eparchies



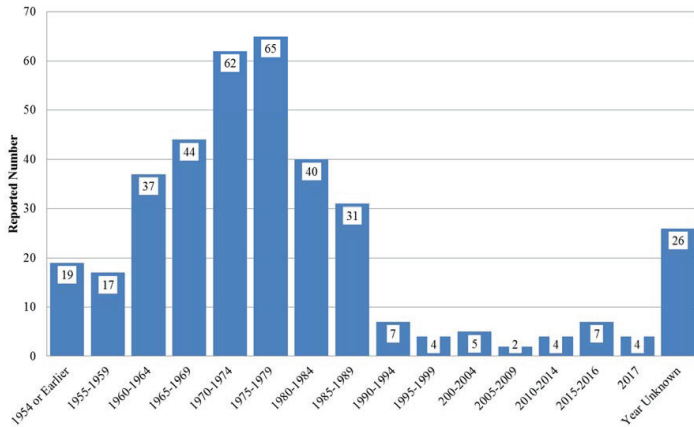
Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

The proportion of victims between the ages 10 and 14 increased slightly between year 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016) and 2017, from 41 percent to 48 percent. The greatest change is the drop between 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016) and 2017 in the number of victims of an unknown age, from 34 percent to 10 percent. That drop is primarily due to the lack of details in the large number of allegations filed in the six Minnesota dioceses in 2016.

Figure 7 shows the years in which the abuse reported between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 was alleged to have occurred or begun. Two-thirds of new allegations (66 percent) occurred or began between 1960 and 1984. The most common time period for allegations reported was 1975-1979 (65 allegations), followed by 1970-1974 (62 allegations). For 26 of the new allegations (7 percent) reported between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, no time

frame for the alleged abuse could be determined by the allegation.

Figure 7. Year Alleged Offense Occurred or Began: Dioceses and Eparchies



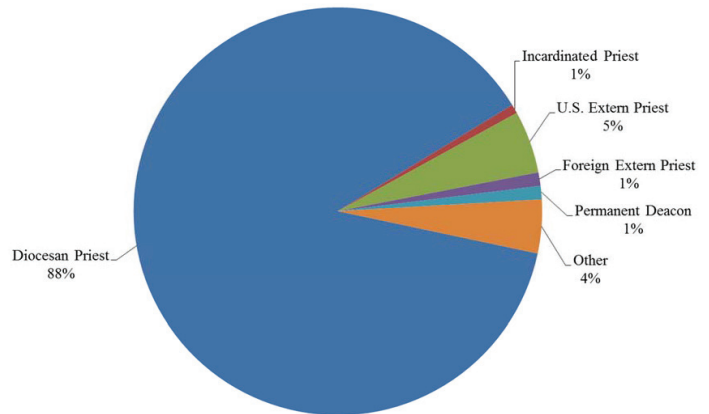
Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Proportionately, the numbers reported in Figure 7 for year 2017 are similar to those reported for year 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016). For that time period, 74 percent of alleged offenses occurred or began between 1960 and 1984, compared to 66 percent in 2017. Also, just 2 percent of the new allegations reported for year 2016 occurred or began in an unknown year, compared to 7 percent in 2017.

Of the 290 diocesan or eparchial priests or deacons that were identified in new allegations between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, nearly nine-tenths (88 percent) had been ordained for the diocese or eparchy in which the abuse was alleged to have occurred. One percent of alleged perpetrators was a priest from outside the diocese who was incardinated into that diocese or eparchy at the time of the alleged abuse and 6 percent were extern priests (5 percent from another U.S. diocese and 1 percent from a diocese outside the United States) who were serving in the diocese temporarily. Three of the

alleged perpetrators (1 percent) identified in new allegations were permanent deacons. Four percent of alleged perpetrators were classified as “other,” most commonly because they were either unnamed in the allegation or their name was unknown to the diocese or eparchy. Figure 8 displays the ecclesial status of offenders at the time of the alleged offense.

Figure 8. Ecclesial Status of Alleged Perpetrator: Dioceses and Eparchies



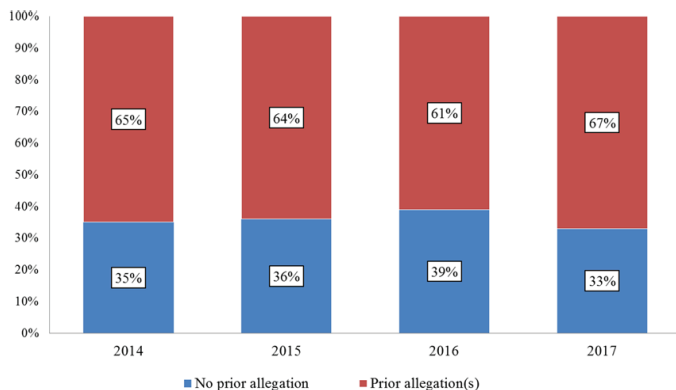
Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

The percentages in Figure 8 for year 2017 are very similar to those reported for year 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016), where 85 percent of alleged perpetrators were priests who had been ordained for the diocese or eparchy in which the abuse was alleged to have occurred. All other categories reported for that time period represented 1 to 5 percent of alleged perpetrators, similar to the percentages shown in Figure 8.

Similar to previous years, more than two-thirds (67 percent) of the 290 priests and deacons identified as alleged offenders between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, had already been identified in prior

allegations. Figure 9 depicts the proportion that had prior allegations.

Figure 9. Percentage of Alleged Perpetrators with Prior Allegations: Dioceses and Eparchies



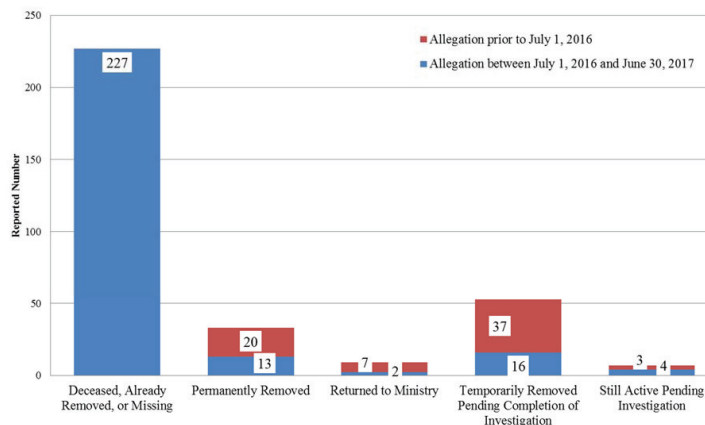
Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

About four-fifths of alleged offenders (78 percent) identified between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing. Another 13 priests or deacons (5 percent) identified during year 2017 were permanently removed from ministry during that time. In addition to the 13 offenders who were permanently removed from ministry between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, another 20 priests or deacons who had been identified in allegations of abuse before July 1, 2016 were permanently removed from ministry between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

Nine priests or deacons were returned to ministry between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, based on the resolution of allegations against them. In addition, 16 priests or deacons have been temporarily removed from ministry pending completion of an investigation and another 37 remain temporarily

removed pending completion of an investigation from a previous year. Notwithstanding the year in which the abuse was reported, seven diocesan and eparchial clergy remain in active ministry pending a preliminary investigation of an allegation. Figure 10 shows the current status of alleged offenders.

Figure 10. Current Status of Alleged Perpetrators: Dioceses and Eparchies



Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Costs to Dioceses and Eparchies

Dioceses and eparchies that responded to the survey and reported costs related to allegations paid out \$212,975,296 between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. This includes payments for allegations reported in previous years. Thirty-eight responding dioceses and eparchies reported no expenditures during this time period related to allegations of sexual abuse of a minor. Table 2 presents payments by dioceses and eparchies according to several categories of allegation-related expenses.

Table 2. Costs Related to Allegations by Dioceses and Eparchies

| | Settlements | Other Payments to Victims | Support for Offenders | Attorneys' Fees | Other Costs | GRAND TOTAL |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| 2014 | \$56,987,635 | \$7,176,376 | \$12,281,089 | \$26,163,298 | \$3,890,782 | \$106,499,180 |
| 2015 | \$87,067,257 | \$8,754,747 | \$11,500,539 | \$30,148,535 | \$3,812,716 | \$141,283,794 |
| 2016 | \$53,928,745 | \$24,148,603 | \$11,355,969 | \$35,460,551 | \$2,020,470 | \$126,914,338 |
| 2017 | \$162,039,485 | \$10,105,226 | \$10,157,172 | \$27,912,123 | \$2,761,290 | \$212,975,296 |
| Change (+/-) 2016-2017 | +\$108,110,740 | -\$14,043,377 | -\$1,198,797 | -\$7,548,820 | +\$740,820 | +\$86,060,958 |

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2017

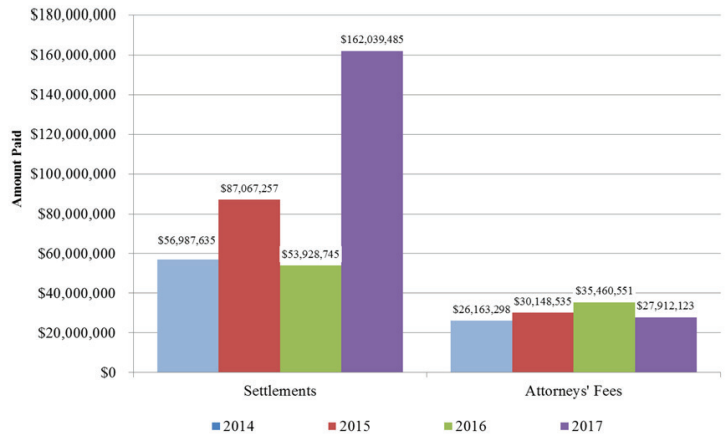
About three-fourths of the payments made by dioceses and eparchies between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 were for settlements to victims (76 percent) and more than a tenth of the total cost is for attorney’s fees² (13 percent). Other payments to victims, if not already included in the settlement, account for one-twentieth of all allegation-related costs (5 percent), and support for offenders (including therapy, living expenses, legal expenses, etc.) amounts to another 5 percent.

Among the “other” allegation-related costs reported by dioceses and eparchies (\$2,761,290 or 1 percent) are payments for items such as investigations of allegations, bankruptcy-related costs, mediation, monitoring services for offenders, canonical trial expenses, travel costs, review board costs, insurance costs, psychological assessments, security costs, consulting fees, future victims’ trust administration fees, and USCCB compliance audit costs.

As can be seen in Table 2, the total costs for year 2017 (\$212,975,296) is 68 percent higher than that reported for year 2016 (\$126,914,338). That increase is mostly due to the increase in the amount paid in settlements for the year 2017. Five dioceses each reported very high settlement costs of more than \$15 million each.

Figure 11 displays the costs paid by dioceses and eparchies for settlements and for attorneys’ fees for audit years 2014 through 2017. Compared to year 2016, settlements have increased by about 200 percent and attorney’s fees have decreased by 21 percent.

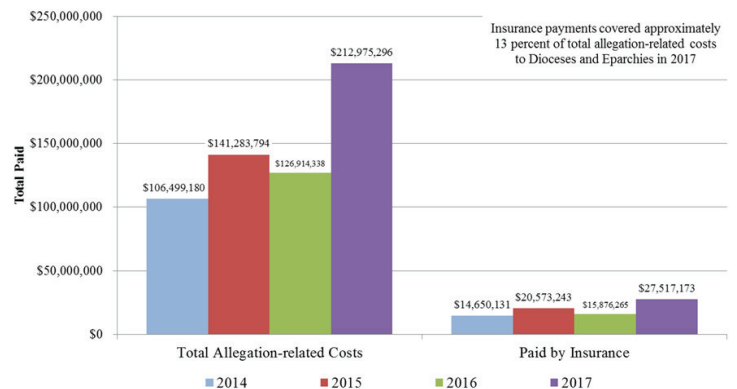
Figure 11. Payments for Settlements and Attorney’s Fees: Dioceses and Eparchies



Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2017

In Figure 12, the total allegation-related costs paid by dioceses and eparchies are shown as well as the approximate proportion of those costs that were covered by diocesan insurance. Diocesan insurance payments covered \$27,517,173 (13 percent) of the total allegation-related costs paid by dioceses and eparchies between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, identical to the 13 percent paid by insurance during year 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016).

Figure 12. Proportion of Total Allegation-related Costs Paid by Insurance: Dioceses and Eparchies

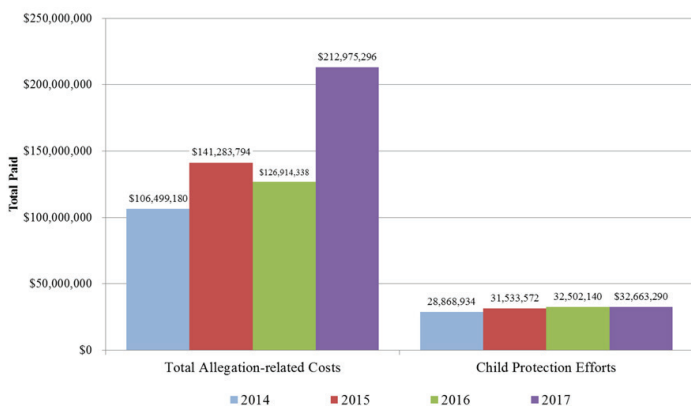


Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2017

² Attorneys’ fees include all costs for attorneys paid by dioceses and eparchies between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor.

In addition to allegations-related expenditures, at least \$32,663,290 was spent by dioceses and eparchies for child protection efforts such as safe environment coordinators, training programs and background checks. This represents a 3 percent increase from the amount reported for child protection efforts (\$32,502,140) for year 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016). Figure 13 compares the allegation-related costs to child protection expenditures paid by dioceses and eparchies in audit years 2014 through 2017.

Figure 13. Total Allegation-related Costs and Child Protection Efforts: Dioceses and Eparchies



Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2017

Adding together the total allegation-related costs and the amount spent on child protection efforts reported in year 2017, the total comes to \$245,638,586. This is a 54 percent increase from the \$159,416,478 reported during audit year 2016.

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES

The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) also encouraged the major superiors of religious institutes of men to complete a survey for their congregations, provinces, or monasteries. For the third year, brother-only institutes were also invited to participate in the survey. This survey was nearly identical to the survey for dioceses and eparchies and was also available online at the same site as the survey for dioceses and eparchies. CMSM sent a letter and a copy of the survey to all member major superiors in early September 2017, requesting their participation. CARA and CMSM also sent

several reminders by e-mail to major superiors to encourage them to respond. By December 7, 2017, CARA received responses from 171 of the 232 institutes that belong to CMSM, for a response rate of 74 percent. This is comparable to the response for previous years of this survey, which was 78 percent in 2016, 77 percent in 2015, 73 percent in 2014, 2012, 2011, 2009, 2008, and 2007, 72 percent in 2010, 71 percent in 2004, 68 percent in 2006, and 67 percent in 2005.

A copy of the survey instrument for religious institutes is included in Appendix II.

Credible Allegations Received by Religious Institutes

The responding religious institutes reported that between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 they received 63 new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor committed by a priest, brother, or deacon of the community.³ These allegations were made against 43 individuals who were priest, brother, or deacon members of the community at the time the offense was alleged to have occurred.

Table 3 presents these numbers. Of the 63 new allegations reported by religious institutes between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, none involved a child under the age of 18 in 2017. Nearly all of the other allegations were made by adults who are alleged abuse when they were minors.

Table 3. New Credible Allegations Received by Religious Institutes

| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | Change (+/-) 2016-2017 | Percentage Change |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Victims | 39 | 70 | 183 | 62 | -121 | -67% |
| Allegations | 40 | 71 | 184 | 63 | -121 | -66% |
| Offenders | 34 | 49 | 102 | 43 | -59 | -58% |

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2017

Compared to year 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016), the numbers for year 2016 represent a 58 percent decrease for the number of offenders and a 66-67 percent decrease for the numbers of allegations and

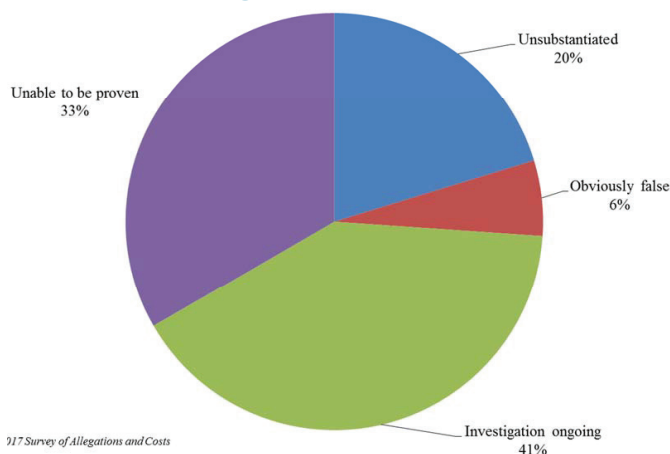
3 Most of the increase in allegations among religious institutes in 2016 came from two religious institutes who had members ministering in Minnesota, due to the state lifting its statute of limitations for abuse claims until May 2016. These two institutes identified 79 new allegations and 37 alleged offenders.

victims. Much of the spike in 2016’s numbers is linked to two religious institutes who minister in Minnesota, where a temporary law extended the statute of limitations for older abuse cases until May 2016.

Determination of Credibility

Every religious institute follows a process to determine the credibility of any allegation of clergy sexual abuse, as set forth in canon law and as advised in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. Figure 14 presents the outcome for allegations received between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 that did not meet the threshold for credibility. This is the second year that religious institutes were asked to categorize new allegations that have not met the threshold for credibility into one of four categories: unsubstantiated, obviously false, investigation ongoing and unable to be proven.

Figure 14. Determination of Credibility for New Allegations: Religious Institutes

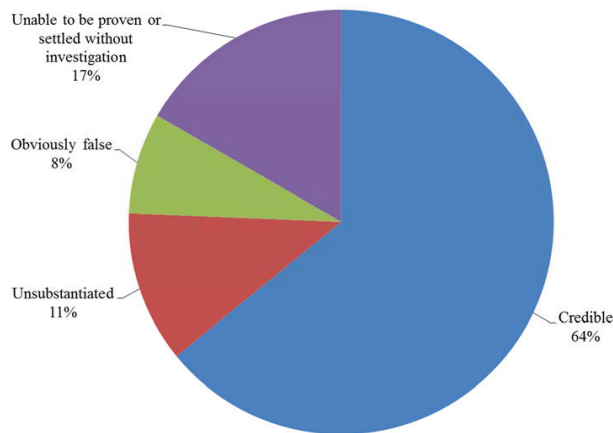


Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

As can be seen in Figure 14, two-fifths of new allegations are still being investigated (41 percent), a third are unable to be proven (33 percent), another one in five is unsubstantiated (20 percent), and 6 percent have been determined to be false.

Figure 15 shows how those allegations received before July 1, 2106 were resolved by June 30, 2017. Nearly two-thirds were found to be credible (64 percent), one in six was unable to be proven or settled without investigation (17 percent), one in ten was found to be unsubstantiated (11 percent), and almost one in ten was determined to be false (8 percent).

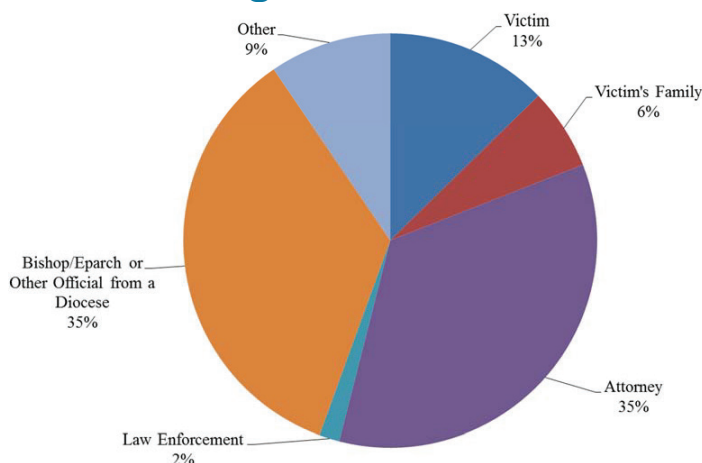
Figure Resolution in 2017 of Allegations Received before July 1, 2016: Religious Institutes



Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Figure 16 displays the way in which the 63 new credible allegations of abuse were reported to the religious institutes between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. Just over a third of allegations were reported to the institute by an attorney (35 percent) or by a bishop/eparch or official from a diocese (35 percent). About one-tenth was reported by the victim (13 percent), with one in 20 reported by the victim’s family (6 percent). Two percent were reported by law enforcement. Among those who wrote in an “other” source, two were the perpetrator himself, and four were through documents received from the priest and/or monastery.

Figure 16. Method of Reporting Allegations of Abuse: Religious Institutes

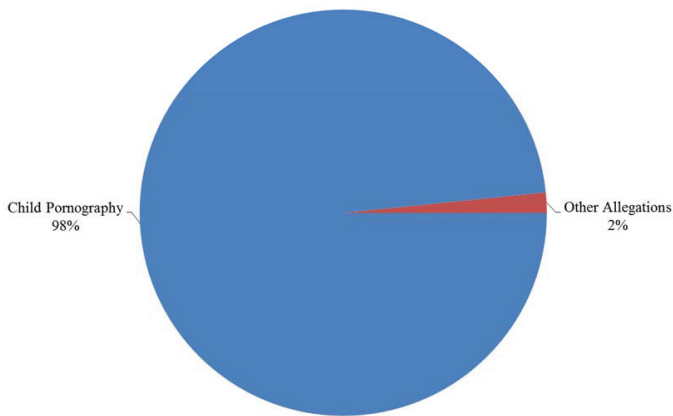


Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Compared to year 2016, fewer allegations were reported by an attorney (35 percent compared to 69 percent), and more by a bishop/eparch or official from a diocese (35 percent compared to 13 percent).

One of the 63 new allegations was a case solely involving child pornography, as is shown in Figure 17.

Figure 17. Percentage of Allegations Involving Solely Child Pornography: Religious Institutes



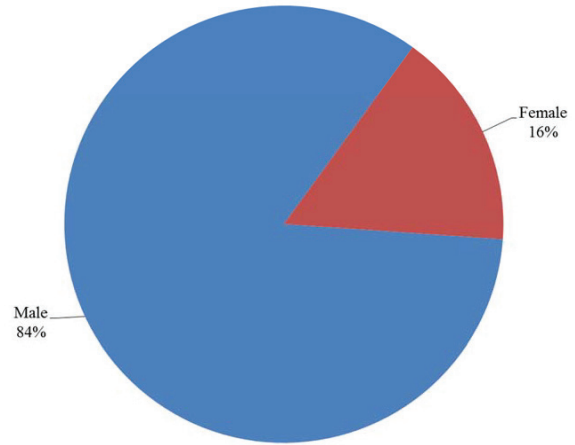
Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

In report year 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016), three of the allegations involved solely child pornography, compared to one for 2017.

Victims, Offenses, and Offenders

Among the 62 alleged victims for whom the sex of the victim was reported, more than four-fifths were male (84 percent); just under two in ten (16 percent) were female. The proportion male and female is displayed in Figure 18.

Figure 18. Sex of Abuse Victim: Religious Institutes

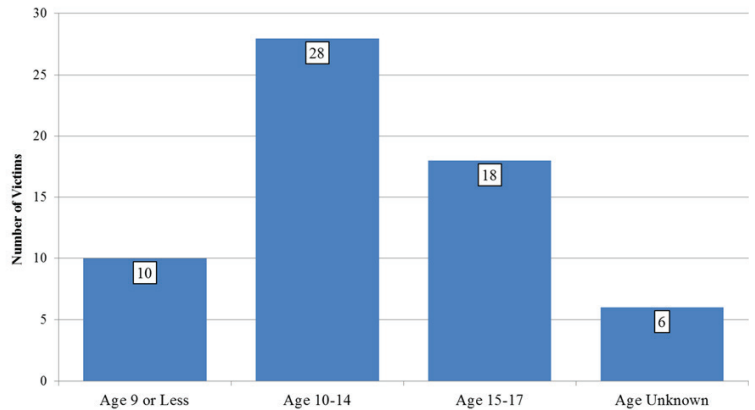


Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

The percentage male among victims (84 percent) is identical to that reported for year 2016.

More than four in ten victims (45 percent) were ages 10 to 14 when the alleged abuse began, with another three-tenths (29 percent) between 15 and 17. Nearly two in ten were under age ten (16 percent) and for one in ten (10 percent) an age was not reported. Figure 19 presents the distribution of victims by age at the time the alleged abuse began.

Figure 19. Age of Victim When Abuse Began: Religious Institutes



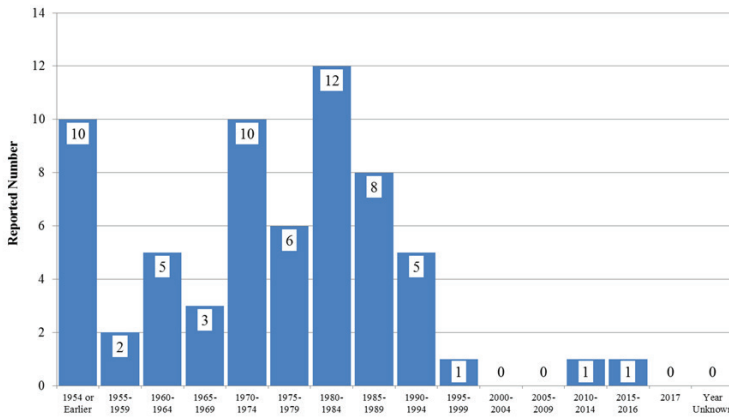
Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

The proportions for the previous reporting year (2016) differ only slightly from those presented in Figure 19. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, 44 percent of the victims were between the ages of 10 and 14 (compared to 45 percent in 2017), 25 percent were between 15 and 17 (compared to 29 percent in 2017), 17 percent were under age 10 (compared to 16 percent in 2017), and 14 percent were of an unknown age (compared to 10 percent in 2016).

Nearly half of new allegations reported between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 (47 percent) are alleged to have occurred or begun before 1975 and half (50 percent) were between 1975 and 1999. Three percent (2 allegations) occurred after 2000.

Religious institutes reported that 1980-1984 (12 allegations) was the most common time period for the alleged occurrences. Figure 20 illustrates the years when the allegations reported in year 2017 were said to have occurred or begun.

Figure 20. Year Alleged Offense Occurred or Began: Religious Institutes



Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

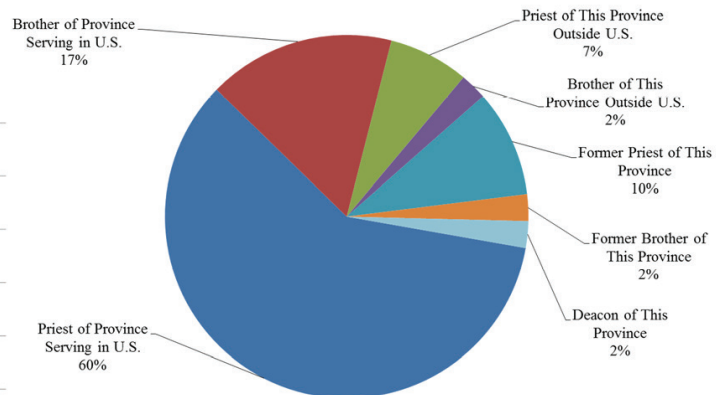
In the previous year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016), 53 percent are alleged to have occurred or begun before 1975 and 42 percent were between 1975 and 1999.

The survey for 2017 is the third to ask about both religious priests and religious brothers who were

alleged perpetrators. Figure 21 displays the ecclesial status of offenders at the time of the alleged abuse. Of the 43 religious priests and brothers against whom new allegations were made between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, six in ten (60 percent) were priests of a U.S. province of the religious institute serving in the United States at the time the abuse was alleged to have occurred, one in six (17 percent) was a religious brother of a U.S. province of the religious institute, and 2 percent were deacons of a U.S. province of the religious institute. One in ten or less was either a former priest of the province (10 percent) or a priest of the province outside of the U.S. (7 percent).

Two percent were either a brother of the province outside the U.S. or a former brother of the province.

Figure 21. Ecclesial Status of Alleged Perpetrator: Religious Institutes



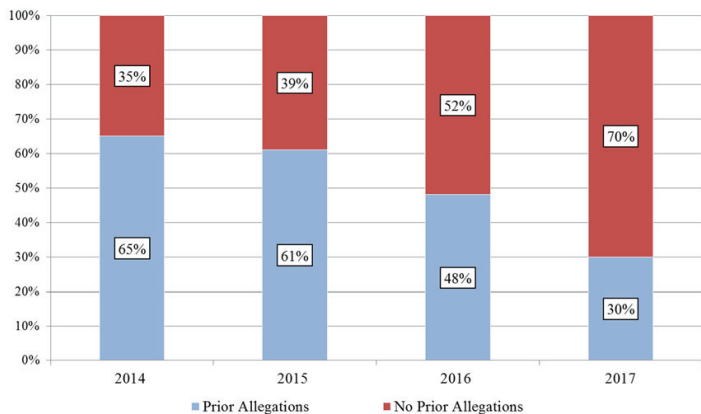
Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Compared to the previous year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016), there are fewer brothers of the province serving in the U.S. who are alleged perpetrators (from 29 percent in 2016 to 17 percent in 2017).

Three in ten of the religious priests, brothers, and deacons against whom new allegations were made between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 had already been the subject of previous allegations in prior years. The other seven-tenths (70 percent) had no prior allegations. Figure 22 presents

these proportions, which differ somewhat from the proportions reported in the previous three reporting years.

Figure 22. Percentage of Alleged Perpetrators with Prior Allegations: Religious Institutes

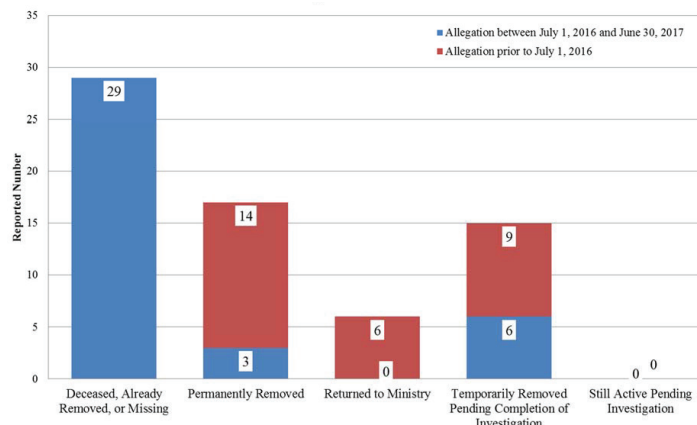


Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

As can be seen in Figure 23, two in three alleged offenders (67 percent) first identified between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 (29 priests) were deceased, had already been removed from ministry, or had already left the religious institute at the time the allegation was reported. Three alleged offenders (7 percent) identified in year 2017 were permanently removed during the time as well as 14 others who had been identified as alleged offenders in an allegation from a previous year. Six religious priests, brothers, or deacons (21 percent) identified as alleged offenders between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 were temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations and another nine identified in allegations prior to July 1, 2016

remain temporarily removed pending completion of their investigation.

Figure 23. Current Status of Alleged Perpetrators: Religious Institutes



Source: 2017 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Six religious priests, brothers, or deacons were returned to ministry between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 based on the resolution of an allegation made during an earlier period. No religious remain in active ministry pending a preliminary investigation of an allegation.

COSTS TO RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES

The responding religious institutes reported paying \$15,981,379 between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 for costs related to allegations. This includes costs paid during this period for allegations reported in previous years. Table 4 presents the payments by religious institutes across several categories of allegation-related expenses.

Table 4. Costs Related to Allegations by Religious Institutes

| | Settlements | Other Payments to Victims | Support for Offenders | Attorneys' Fees | Other Costs | GRAND TOTAL |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 2014 | \$5,950,438 | \$570,721 | \$3,121,958 | \$2,611,220 | \$326,130 | \$12,580,467 |
| 2105 | \$5,451,612 | \$337,696 | \$2,507,513 | \$3,592,233 | \$446,696 | \$12,335,750 |
| 2016 | \$6,451,112 | \$533,626 | \$2,887,150 | \$4,427,186 | \$106,389 | \$14,405,463 |
| 2017 | \$6,749,006 | \$466,591 | \$2,869,490 | \$5,097,723 | \$798,569 | \$15,981,379 |
| Change (+/-) 2016-2017 | +\$297,894 | -\$67,035 | -\$17,660 | +\$670,537 | +\$692,180 | +\$1,575,916 |

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2017

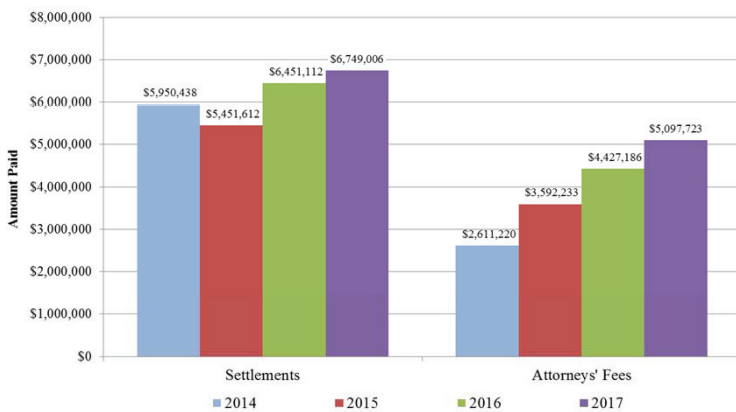
More than four-tenths of the payments made by religious institutes between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 (42 percent of all costs related to allegations reported by religious institutes) were for settlements to victims. Other payments to victims, outside of settlements, were \$466,591 (3 percent). Attorneys' fees were an additional \$5.1 million (32 percent). Support for offenders (including therapy, living expenses, legal expenses, etc.) amounted to \$2,869,490 (18 percent).

An additional \$798,569 (5 percent) was for other costs. Payments designated as "other costs" reported by religious institutes included bankruptcy costs, investigators, consultant fees, conferences, administrative expenses, and audit expenses.

Compared to the previous year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016), total costs related to allegations were up 11 percent for 2017.

Figure 24 illustrates the settlement-related costs and attorney's fees paid by religious institutes during reporting years 2014 through 2017. Seven religious institutes with relatively large settlements account for 67 percent of all settlement-related costs in year 2017. Compared to year 2016, settlement-related costs increased by about \$300,000, an increase of 5 percent. Attorneys' fees in year 2017 increased by more than \$600,000 compared to year 2016, a 15 percent increase.

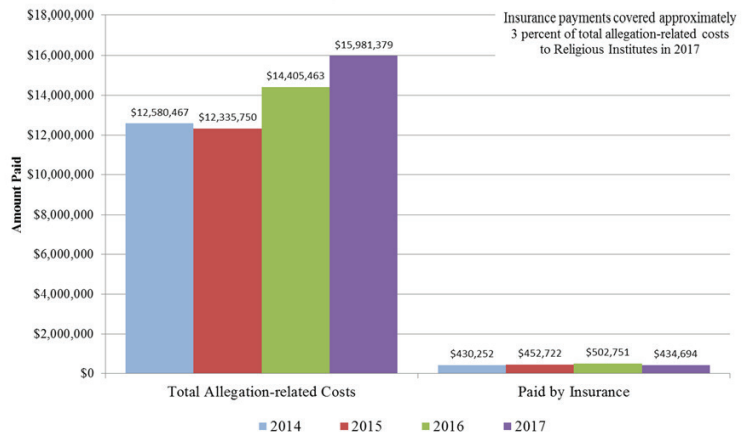
Figure 24. Payments for Settlements and Attorneys' Fees: Religious Institutes



Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2017

Religious institutes that responded to the question reported that 3 percent of the total costs related to allegations between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 were covered by religious institutes' insurance. Figure 25 displays the total allegation-related costs paid by religious institutes for reporting years 2014 to 2017 as well as the costs that were covered by insurance. The percentage covered by insurance in year 2016 was similar to the percentage in year 2017 (3 percent in each year).

Figure 25. Approximate Percentage of Total Paid by Insurance: Religious Institutes

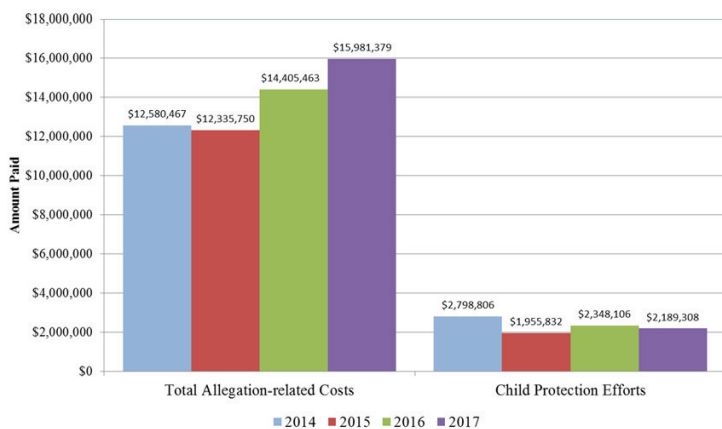


Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2017

In addition to allegation-related expenses, religious institutes spent more than two million dollars (\$2,187,537) for child protection efforts between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, such as training programs and background checks. This is a 7 percent decrease compared to the \$2,348,106 reported spent on child protection efforts in year 2016.

Figure 26 compares the settlement-related costs and child protection expenditures paid by religious institutes in audit years 2014 through 2017.

Figure 26. Total Allegation-related Costs and Child Protection Efforts: Religious Institutes



Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2017

Altogether, religious institutes reported \$18,170,687 in total costs related to child protection efforts as well as all costs related to allegations that were paid between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, an 8 percent increase from the \$16,753,569 combined total reported by religious institutes in these two categories last year.

TOTAL COMBINED RESPONSES OF DIOCESES, EPARCHIES, AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES

Tables 5, 6, and 7 present the combined total responses of dioceses, eparchies, and religious

institutes. These tables depict the total number of allegations, victims, offenders, and costs as reported by these groups for the period between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. Dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes combined received 436 new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a diocesan, eparchial, or religious priest, religious brother, or deacon. These allegations were made by 431 individuals against 333 priests, religious brothers, or deacons.

Table 5. New Credible Allegations Received Combined Totals

| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | Change (+/-) 2016-2017 | Percentage Change |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Victims | 330 | 384 | 911 | 431 | -480 | -53% |
| Allegations | 334 | 392 | 914 | 436 | -478 | -52% |
| Offenders | 245 | 276 | 463 | 333 | -130 | -28% |

Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2017

Compared to year 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016), year 2017 saw a 52 percent decrease in allegations and a 53 percent decrease in victims reported, as well as a 28 percent decrease in offenders. As was noted earlier, a substantial proportion of this decrease comes from the reporting of six dioceses and two religious institutes in Minnesota, where the temporary law lifting the statute of limitations for older abuse cases was extended in 2016.

Dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes reported paying out \$228,956,675 for costs related to allegations between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. This includes payments for allegations reported in previous years. Table 6 presents the payments across several categories of allegation-related expenses.

Table 6. Costs Related to Allegations Combined Totals

| | Settlements | Other Payments to Victims | Support for Offenders | Attorneys' Fees | Other Costs | GRAND TOTAL |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2014 | \$62,938,073 | \$7,747,097 | \$15,403,047 | \$28,774,518 | \$4,216,912 | \$119,079,647 |
| 2015 | \$92,518,869 | \$9,092,443 | \$14,008,052 | \$33,740,768 | \$4,259,412 | \$153,619,544 |
| 2016 | \$60,379,857 | \$24,682,229 | \$14,243,119 | \$39,887,737 | \$2,126,859 | \$141,319,801 |
| 2017 | \$168,788,491 | \$10,571,817 | \$13,026,662 | \$33,009,846 | \$3,559,859 | \$228,956,675 |
| Change (+/-) 2016-2017 | +\$108,408,634 | -\$14,110,412 | -\$1,216,457 | -\$6,877,891 | +\$1,433,000 | \$87,636,874 |
| Percentage Change | +180% | -57% | -9% | -17% | +67% | +62% |

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2017

Three-fourths of the payments (74 percent) were for settlements to victims. Attorneys' fees accounted for an additional 14 percent. Support for offenders (including therapy, living expenses, legal expenses, etc.) amounted to 6 percent of these payments. An additional 5 percent were for other payments to victims that were not included in any settlement. A final 2 percent of payments were for other allegation-related costs.

Dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes paid \$34,850,827 for child protection efforts between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. Dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes expended a total of \$228,956,675 for costs related to allegations between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. Table 7 presents the combined allegation-related costs and child protection expenditures paid by dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes.

Table 7. Costs Related to Child Protection Efforts and to Allegations

| | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 | FY 2017 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total amounts for all child protection efforts, including SEC/VAC salaries and expenses, training programs, background checks, etc. | \$31,667,740 | \$33,489,404 | \$34,850,246 | \$34,852,598 |
| Total costs related to allegations | \$119,079,647 | \$153,539,897 | \$141,319,801 | \$228,956,675 |
| TOTAL | \$150,747,387 | \$187,029,301 | \$176,170,047 | \$263,809,273 |

Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2017

Altogether, dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes reported \$263,809,273 in total costs related to child protection efforts as well as costs related to allegations that were paid between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. This represents a 50 percent increase from that reported for year 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016).

APPENDICES

2017

APPENDIX A

2011 CHARTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

PREAMBLE

Since 2002, the Church in the United States has experienced a crisis without precedent in our times. The sexual abuse of children and young people by some deacons, priests, and bishops, and the ways in which these crimes and sins were addressed, have caused enormous pain, anger, and confusion. As bishops, we have acknowledged our mistakes and our roles in that suffering, and we apologize and take responsibility again for too often failing victims and the Catholic people in the past. From the depths of our hearts, we bishops express great sorrow and profound regret for what the Catholic people have endured.

Again, with this 2011 revision of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, we re-affirm our deep commitment to creating a safe environment within the Church for children and youth. We have listened to the profound pain and suffering of those victimized by sexual abuse and will continue to respond to their cries. We have agonized over the sinfulness, the criminality, and the breach of trust perpetrated by some members of the clergy. We have determined as best we can the extent of the problem of this abuse of minors by clergy in our country, as well as commissioned a study of the causes and context of this problem.

We continue to have a special care for and a commitment to reaching out to the victims of sexual abuse and their families. The damage caused by sexual abuse of minors is devastating and long-lasting. We apologize to them for the grave harm that has been inflicted on them, and we offer our help for the future. The loss of trust that is often

the consequence of such abuse becomes even more tragic when it leads to a loss of the faith that we have a sacred duty to foster. We make our own the words of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II: that the sexual abuse of young people is “by every standard wrong and rightly considered a crime by society; it is also an appalling sin in the eyes of God” (Address to the Cardinals of the United States and Conference Officers, April 23, 2002).

Along with the victims and their families, the entire Catholic community in this country has suffered because of this scandal and its consequences. In the last nine years, the intense public scrutiny of the minority of the ordained who have betrayed their calling has caused the vast majority of faithful priests and deacons to experience enormous vulnerability to being misunderstood in their ministry and even to the possibility of false accusations. We share with them a firm commitment to renewing the image of the vocation to Holy Orders so that it will continue to be perceived as a life of service to others after the example of Christ our Lord.

We, who have been given the responsibility of shepherding God’s people, will, with his help and in full collaboration with all the faithful, continue to work to restore the bonds of trust that unite us. Words alone cannot accomplish this goal. It will begin with the actions we take in our General Assembly and at home in our dioceses and eparchies.

We feel a particular responsibility for “the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Cor 5:18) which God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, has given us. The love of Christ impels us to ask forgiveness for our own faults but also to appeal to all—to those who have been victimized, to those who have

offended, and to all who have felt the wound of this scandal—to be reconciled to God and one another.

Perhaps in a way never before experienced, we have felt the power of sin touch our entire Church family in this country; but as St. Paul boldly says, God made Christ “to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor 5:21). May we who have known sin experience as well, through a spirit of reconciliation, God’s own righteousness.

We know that after such profound hurt, healing and reconciliation are beyond human capacity alone. It is God’s grace and mercy that will lead us forward, trusting Christ’s promise: “for God all things are possible” (Mt 19:26).

In working toward fulfilling this responsibility, we have relied first of all on Almighty God to sustain us in faith and in the discernment of the right course to take.

We have received fraternal guidance and support from the Holy See that has sustained us in this time of trial.

We have relied on the Catholic faithful of the United States. Nationally and in each diocese, the wisdom and expertise of clergy, religious, and laity have contributed immensely to confronting the effects of the crisis and have taken steps to resolve it. We are filled with gratitude for their great faith, for their generosity, and for the spiritual and moral support that we have received from them.

We acknowledge and affirm the faithful service of the vast majority of our priests and deacons and the love that their people have for them. They deservedly have our esteem and that of the Catholic people for their good work. It is regrettable that their committed ministerial witness has been overshadowed by this crisis.

In a special way, we acknowledge those victims of clergy sexual abuse and their families who have trusted us enough to share their stories and to help us appreciate more fully the consequences of this reprehensible violation of sacred trust.

Let there now be no doubt or confusion on anyone’s part: For us, your bishops, our obligation to protect children and young people and to prevent sexual abuse flows from the mission and example given to us by Jesus Christ himself, in whose name we serve.

As we work to restore trust, we are reminded how Jesus showed constant care for the vulnerable. He

inaugurated his ministry with these words of the Prophet Isaiah:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.
(Lk 4:18-19)

In Matthew 25, the Lord, in his commission to his apostles and disciples, told them that whenever they show mercy and compassion to the least ones, they show it to him.

Jesus extended this care in a tender and urgent way to children, rebuking his disciples for keeping them away from him: “Let the children come to me” (Mt 19:14). And he uttered a grave warning that for anyone who would lead the little ones astray, it would be better for such a person “to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea” (Mt 18:6).

We hear these words of the Lord as prophetic for this moment. With a firm determination to restore the bonds of trust, we bishops recommit ourselves to a continual pastoral outreach to repair the breach with those who have suffered sexual abuse and with all the people of the Church.

In this spirit, over the last nine years, the principles and procedures of the *Charter* have been integrated into church life.

- The Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection provides the focus for a consistent, ongoing, and comprehensive approach to creating a secure environment for young people throughout the Church in the United States.
- The Secretariat also provides the means for us to be accountable for achieving the goals of the *Charter*, as demonstrated by its annual reports on the implementation of the *Charter* based on independent compliance audits.
- The National Review Board is carrying on its responsibility to assist in the assessment of diocesan compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.
- The descriptive study of the nature and scope of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy in the United States, commissioned by the National

Review Board, has been completed. The resulting study, examining the historical period 1950-2002, by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice provides us with a powerful tool not only to examine our past but also to secure our future against such misconduct.

- The U.S. bishops charged the National Review Board to oversee the completion of the *Causes and Context* study.
- Victims’ assistance coordinators are in place throughout our nation to assist dioceses in responding to the pastoral needs of those who have been injured by abuse.
- Diocesan/eparchial bishops in every diocese are advised and greatly assisted by diocesan review boards as the bishops make the decisions needed to fulfill the *Charter*.
- Safe environment programs are in place to assist parents and children—and those who work with children—in preventing harm to young people. These programs continually seek to incorporate the most useful developments in the field of child protection.

Through these steps and many others, we remain committed to the safety of our children and young people.

While it seems that the scope of this disturbing problem of sexual abuse of minors by clergy has been reduced over the last decade, the harmful effects of this abuse continue to be experienced both by victims and dioceses.

Thus it is with a vivid sense of the effort which is still needed to confront the effects of this crisis fully and with the wisdom gained by the experience of the last six years that we have reviewed and revised the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. We now re-affirm that we will assist in the healing of those who have been injured, will do all in our power to protect children and young people, and will work with our clergy, religious, and laity to restore trust and harmony in our faith communities, as we pray for God’s kingdom to come, here on earth, as it is in heaven.

To make effective our goals of a safe environment within the Church for children and young people and of preventing sexual abuse of minors by clergy in the future, we, the members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, have outlined in this *Charter* a series of practical and pastoral steps,

and we commit ourselves to taking them in our dioceses and eparchies.

TO PROMOTE HEALING AND RECONCILIATION WITH VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS

ARTICLE 1. Dioceses/eparchies are to reach out to victims/survivors and their families and demonstrate a sincere commitment to their spiritual and emotional well-being. The first obligation of the Church with regard to the victims is for healing and reconciliation. Each diocese/eparchy is to continue its outreach to every person who has been the victim of sexual abuse* as a minor by anyone in church service, whether the abuse was recent or occurred many years in the past. This outreach may include provision of counseling, spiritual assistance, support groups, and other social services agreed upon by the victim and the diocese/eparchy.

Through pastoral outreach to victims and their families, the diocesan/eparchial bishop or his representative is to offer to meet with them, to listen with patience and compassion to their experiences and concerns, and to share the “profound sense of solidarity and concern” expressed by His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, in his Address to the Cardinals of the United States and Conference Officers (April 23, 2002). Pope Benedict XVI, too, in his address to the U.S. bishops in 2008 said of the clergy sexual abuse crisis, “It is your God-given responsibility as pastors to bind up the wounds caused by every breach of trust, to foster healing, to promote reconciliation and to reach out with loving concern to those so seriously wronged.”

We bishops and eparchs commit ourselves to work as one with our brother priests and deacons to foster reconciliation among all people in our dioceses/eparchies. We especially commit ourselves to work with those individuals who were themselves abused and the communities that have suffered because of the sexual abuse of minors that occurred in their midst.

ARTICLE 2. Dioceses/eparchies are to have policies and procedures in place to respond promptly to any allegation where there is reason to believe that sexual abuse of a minor has occurred. Dioceses/eparchies are to have a competent person or persons to coordinate assistance for the immediate pastoral care of persons who report having been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other church personnel. The procedures for those making a complaint are to be readily available in printed form in the principal languages in which the liturgy is celebrated in the diocese/eparchy and be the subject of public announcements at least annually.

Dioceses/eparchies are also to have a review board that functions as a confidential consultative body to the bishop/eparch. The majority of its members are to be lay persons not in the employ of the diocese/eparchy (see Norm 5 in *Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons*, 2006). This board is to advise the diocesan/eparchial bishop in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse of minors and in his determination of a cleric's suitability for ministry. It is regularly to review diocesan/eparchial policies and procedures for dealing with sexual abuse of minors. Also, the board can review these matters both retrospectively and prospectively and give advice on all aspects of responses in connection with these cases.

ARTICLE 3. Dioceses/eparchies are not to enter into settlements which bind the parties to confidentiality unless the victim/survivor requests confidentiality and this request is noted in the text of the agreement.

TO GUARANTEE AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS

ARTICLE 4. Dioceses/eparchies are to report an allegation of sexual abuse of a person who is a minor to the public authorities. Dioceses/eparchies are to comply with all applicable civil laws with respect to the reporting of allegations of sexual abuse of minors to civil authorities and cooperate

in their investigation in accord with the law of the jurisdiction in question.

Dioceses/eparchies are to cooperate with public authorities about reporting cases even when the person is no longer a minor.

In every instance, dioceses/eparchies are to advise victims of their right to make a report to public authorities and support this right.

ARTICLE 5. We affirm the words of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, in his Address to the Cardinals of the United States and Conference Officers: "There is no place in the priesthood or religious life for those who would harm the young."

Sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric is a crime in the universal law of the Church (CIC, c. 1395 §2; CCEO, c. 1453 §1). Because of the seriousness of this matter, jurisdiction has been reserved to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (*Motu proprio Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, AAS 93, 2001). Sexual abuse of a minor is also a crime in all civil jurisdictions in the United States.

Diocesan/eparchial policy is to provide that for even a single act of sexual abuse of a minor*—when ever it occurred—which is admitted or established after an appropriate process in accord with canon law, the offending priest or deacon is to be permanently removed from ministry and, if warranted, dismissed from the clerical state. In keeping with the stated purpose of this *Charter*, an offending priest or deacon is to be offered therapeutic professional assistance both for the purpose of prevention and also for his own healing and well-being.

The diocesan/eparchial bishop is to exercise his power of governance, within the parameters of the universal law of the Church, to ensure that any priest or deacon subject to his governance who has committed even one act of sexual abuse of a minor as described below (see note) shall not continue in ministry.

A priest or deacon who is accused of sexual abuse of a minor is to be accorded the presumption of innocence during the investigation of the allegation and all appropriate steps are to be taken to protect his reputation. He is to be encouraged to retain the assistance of civil and canonical counsel. If the allegation is deemed not substantiated, every step possible is to be taken to restore his good name, should it have been harmed.

In fulfilling this article, dioceses/eparchies are to follow the requirements of the universal law of the Church and of the *Essential Norms* approved for the United States.

ARTICLE 6. There are to be clear and well-publicized diocesan/eparchial standards of ministerial behavior and appropriate boundaries for clergy and for any other paid personnel and volunteers of the Church in positions of trust who have regular contact with children and young people.

ARTICLE 7. Dioceses/eparchies are to be open and transparent in communicating with the public about sexual abuse of minors by clergy within the confines of respect for the privacy and the reputation of the individuals involved. This is especially so with regard to informing parish and other church communities directly affected by sexual abuse of a minor.

**TO ENSURE THE
ACCOUNTABILITY OF
OUR PROCEDURES**

ARTICLE 8. By the authority of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse is renewed, and it is now constituted the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. It becomes a standing committee of the Conference. Its membership is to include representation from all the episcopal regions of the country, with new appointments staggered to maintain continuity in the effort to protect children and youth.

The Committee is to advise the USCCB on all matters related to child and youth protection and is to oversee the development of the plans, programs, and budget of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection. It is to provide the USCCB with comprehensive planning and recommendations concerning child and youth protection by coordinating the efforts of the Secretariat and the National Review Board.

ARTICLE 9. The Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, established by the Conference

of Catholic Bishops, is to staff the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People and be a resource for dioceses/eparchies for the implementation of “safe environment” programs and for suggested training and development of diocesan personnel responsible for child and youth protection programs, taking into account the financial and other resources, as well as the population, area, and demographics of the diocese/eparchy.

The Secretariat is to produce an annual public report on the progress made in implementing and maintaining the standards in this *Charter*. The report is to be based on an annual audit process whose method, scope, and cost are to be approved by the Administrative Committee on the recommendation of the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. This public report is to include the names of those dioceses/eparchies which the audit shows are not in compliance with the provisions and expectations of the *Charter*.

As a member of the Conference staff, the Executive Director of the Secretariat is appointed by and reports to the General Secretary. The Executive Director is to provide the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People and the National Review Board with regular reports of the Secretariat’s activities.

ARTICLE 10. The whole Church, especially the laity, at both the diocesan and national levels, needs to be engaged in maintaining safe environments in the Church for children and young people.

The Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People is to be assisted by the National Review Board, a consultative body established in 2002 by the USCCB. The Board will review the annual report of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection on the implementation of this *Charter* in each diocese/eparchy and any recommendations that emerge from it, and offer its own assessment regarding its approval and publication to the Conference President.

The Board will also advise the Conference President on future members. The Board members are appointed by the Conference President in consultation with the Administrative Committee and are accountable to him and to the USCCB Executive Committee. Before a candidate

is contacted, the Conference President is to seek and obtain, in writing, the endorsement of the candidate's diocesan bishop. The Board is to operate in accord with the statutes and bylaws of the USCCB and within procedural guidelines to be developed by the Board in consultation with the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People and approved by the USCCB Administrative Committee. These guidelines are to set forth such matters as the Board's purpose and responsibility, officers, terms of office, and frequency of reports to the Conference President on its activities.

The Board will offer its advice as it collaborates with the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People on matters of child and youth protection, specifically on policies and best practices. The Board and Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People will meet jointly several times a year.

The Board will review the work of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and make recommendations to the Director. It will assist the Director in the development of resources for dioceses.

The Board will offer its assessment of the Causes and Context study to the Conference, along with any recommendations suggested by the study.

ARTICLE 11. The President of the Conference is to inform the Holy See of this revised *Charter* to indicate the manner in which we, the Catholic bishops, together with the entire Church in the United States, intend to continue our commitment to the protection of children and young people. The President is also to share with the Holy See the annual reports on the implementation of the *Charter*.

TO PROTECT THE FAITHFUL IN THE FUTURE

ARTICLE 12. Dioceses/eparchies are to maintain "safe environment" programs which the diocesan/eparchial bishop deems to be in accord with Catholic moral principles. They are to be conducted cooperatively with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and

training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, volunteers, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people. Dioceses/eparchies are to make clear to clergy and all members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons in positions of trust with regard to children.

ARTICLE 13. Dioceses/eparchies are to evaluate the background of all incardinated and non-incardinated priests and deacons who are engaged in ecclesiastical ministry in the diocese/eparchy and of all diocesan/eparchial and parish/school or other paid personnel and volunteers whose duties include ongoing, unsupervised contact with minors. Specifically, they are to utilize the resources of law enforcement and other community agencies. In addition, they are to employ adequate screening and evaluative techniques in deciding the fitness of candidates for ordination (cf. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Program of Priestly Formation* [Fifth Edition], 2006, no. 39).

ARTICLE 14. Transfers of clergy who have committed an act of sexual abuse against a minor for residence, including retirement, shall be as in accord with Norm 12 of the Essential Norms. (Cf. *Proposed Guidelines on the Transfer or Assignment of Clergy and Religious*, adopted by the USCCB, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men [CMSM], the Leadership Conference of Women Religious [LCWR], and the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious [CMSWR] in 1993.)

ARTICLE 15. To ensure continuing collaboration and mutuality of effort in the protection of children and young people on the part of the bishops and religious ordinaries, two representatives of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men are to serve as consultants to the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. At the invitation of the Major Superiors, the Committee will designate two of its members to consult with its counterpart at CMSM. Diocesan/eparchial bishops and major superiors of clerical institutes or their delegates are to meet periodically to coordinate their roles concerning the issue of allegations made against a cleric member of a religious institute ministering in a diocese/eparchy.

ARTICLE 16. Given the extent of the problem of the sexual abuse of minors in our society, we are willing to cooperate with other churches and ecclesial communities, other religious bodies, institutions of learning, and other interested organizations in conducting research in this area.

ARTICLE 17. We commit ourselves to work individually in our dioceses/eparchies and together as a Conference, through the appropriate committees, to strengthen our programs both for initial priestly formation and for the ongoing formation of priests. With renewed urgency, we will promote programs of human formation for chastity and celibacy for both seminarians and priests based upon the criteria found in *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, the *Program of Priestly Formation*, the *Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests*, and the results of the Apostolic Visitation. We will continue to assist priests, deacons, and seminarians in living out their vocation in faithful and integral ways.

CONCLUSION

As we wrote in 2002, “It is within this context of the essential soundness of the priesthood and of the deep faith of our brothers and sisters in the Church that we know that we can meet and resolve this crisis for now and the future.”

We wish to re-affirm once again that the vast majority of priests and deacons serve their people faithfully and that they have the esteem and affection of their people. They also have our love and esteem and our commitment to their good names and well-being.

An essential means of dealing with the crisis is prayer for healing and reconciliation, and acts of reparation for the grave offense to God and the deep wound inflicted upon his holy people. Closely connected to prayer and acts of reparation is the call to holiness of life and the care of the diocesan/eparchial bishop to ensure that he and his priests avail themselves of the proven ways of avoiding sin and growing in holiness of life.

IT IS WITH RELIANCE ON PRAYER AND PENANCE THAT WE RENEW THE PLEDGES WHICH WE MADE IN THE ORIGINAL CHARTER:

We pledge most solemnly to one another and to you, God’s people, that we will work to our utmost for the protection of children and youth.

We pledge that we will devote to this goal the resources and personnel necessary to accomplish it.

We pledge that we will do our best to ordain to the priesthood and put into positions of trust only those who share this commitment to protecting children and youth.

We pledge that we will work toward healing and reconciliation for those sexually abused by clerics.



Much has been done to honor these pledges. We devoutly pray that God who has begun this good work in us will bring it to fulfillment.

This *Charter* is published for the dioceses/eparchies of the United States. It is to be reviewed again after two years by the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People with

the advice of the National Review Board. The results of this review are to be presented to the full Conference of Bishops for confirmation.

NOTE

* For purposes of this *Charter*, the offense of sexual abuse of a minor will be understood in accord with the provisions of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela* (SST), article 6, which reads:

§1. The more grave delicts against morals which are reserved to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith are:

1° the delict against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue committed by a cleric with a minor below the age of eighteen years; in this case, a person who habitually lacks the use of reason is to be considered equivalent to a minor.

2° the acquisition, possession, or distribution by a cleric of pornographic images of minors under the age of fourteen, for purposes of sexual gratification, by

whatever means or using whatever technology;

§2. A cleric who commits the delicts mentioned above in §1 is to be punished according to the gravity of his crime, not excluding dismissal or deposition.

In view of the Circular Letter from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, dated May 3, 2011, which calls for “mak[ing] allowance for the legislation of the country where the Conference is located,” Section III(g), we will apply the federal legal age for defining child pornography, which includes pornographic images of minors under the age of eighteen, for assessing a cleric’s suitability for ministry and for complying with civil reporting statutes.

If there is any doubt whether a specific act qualifies as an external, objectively grave violation, the writings of recognized moral theologians should be consulted, and the opinions of recognized experts should be appropriately obtained (*Canonical Delicts Involving Sexual Misconduct and Dismissal from the Clerical State*, 1995, p. 6). Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the diocesan bishop/eparch, with the advice of a qualified review board, to determine the gravity of the alleged act.



*Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs*

APPENDIX B

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR DIOCESES AND EPARCHIES

This questionnaire is designed to survey dioceses and eparchies about credible accusations of abuse and the costs in dealing with these allegations. The results will be used to demonstrate progress in implementing the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and reducing the incidence of sexual abuse within the Church.

All data collected here are entirely confidential. Only national aggregate results will be reported.

**ALL DATA REPORTED HERE REFER TO THE PRECEDING AUDIT YEAR –
JULY 1, 2016-JUNE 30, 2017.**

As of June 30, 2017, the total number of allegations received between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 that were:

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 38 A1. Unsubstantiated | 180 A3. Investigation ongoing | <i>(See accompanying glossary for the definitions of these terms.)</i> |
| 3 A2. Obviously false | 160 A4. Unable to be proven | |

The total number of allegations received prior to July 1, 2016 that were resolved by June 30, 2017 as:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 107 B1. Credible | 2 B3. Obviously false |
| 13 B2. Unsubstantiated | 60 B4. Unable to be proven or settled without investigation |

CREDIBLE ALLEGATIONS RECEIVED JULY 1, 2016-JUNE 30, 2017

*NOTE: An allegation is defined as one victim alleging an act or acts of abuse by one alleged perpetrator. Only **credible allegations** (see accompanying glossary for definitions) are appropriate for inclusion below.*

373 1. Total number of new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor reported against a priest or deacon in the diocese between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. (Do not include clergy that are members of religious institutes as they will be reported by their religious institutes).

4 2. Of the total number in item 1, the number of allegations that involved solely child pornography.

Of the total number in item 1, the number that were first reported to the diocese/eparchy by:

Choose only one category for each allegation. (The sum of items 3-9 should equal item 1).

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 170 3. Victim. | 3 7. Law enforcement. |
| 37 4. Family member of the victim. | 12 8. Bishop or official from another diocese. |
| 5 5. Friend of the victim. | 14 9. Other: _____. |
| 133 6. Attorney. | |

Of the total number in item 1 (excluding the solely child pornography cases), the number of alleged victims that are:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 299 10. Male. | 67 11. Female. |
|---------------|----------------|

Of the total number in item 1 (excluding the solely child pornography cases), the number of alleged victims in each age category when the alleged abuse began: (Choose only one category for each allegation).

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 72 12. 0-9. | 76 14. 15-17. |
| 179 13. 10-14. | 37 15. Age unknown. |

Of the total number in item 1, the number that are alleged to have began in:

Choose only one category for each allegation. (The sum of items 16-30 should equal item 1).

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 19 16. 1954 or earlier. | 40 22. 1980-1984. | 4 28. 2010-2014. |
| 17 17. 1955-1959. | 31 23. 1985-1989. | 7 29. 2015-2016. |
| 37 18. 1960-1964. | 7 24. 1990-1994. | 4 30. 2017. |
| 44 19. 1965-1969. | 4 25. 1995-1999. | 26 31. Time period unknown. |
| 62 20. 1970-1974. | 5 26. 2000-2004. | |
| 65 21. 1975-1979. | 2 27. 2005-2009. | |

ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

NOTE: Include any perpetrators who are or were ordained members of the clergy legitimately serving in or assigned to the diocese or eparchy at the time the credible allegation(s) was alleged to have occurred. Do not include clergy that are members of religious institutes as they will be reported by their religious institutes.

290 32. Total number of priests or deacons against whom new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor have been reported between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

Of the total number in item 32, how many were in each category below at the time of the alleged abuse? Choose only one category for each alleged perpetrator. (The sum of items 33-38 should equal item 32).

- 248 33. Diocesan priests ordained for this diocese or eparchy.
- 2 34. Diocesan priests incardinated later in this diocese or eparchy.
- 14 35. Extern diocesan priests from another U.S. diocese serving in this diocese or eparchy.
- 3 36. Extern diocesan priests from a diocese outside the United States serving in this diocese or eparchy.
- 3 37. Permanent deacons.
- 12 38. Other: _____.

Of the total number in item 32, the number that:

- 195 39. Have had one or more previous allegations reported against them prior to July 1, 2016.
- 227 40. Are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing.
- 13 41. Have been permanently removed or retired from ministry between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 based on allegations of abuse.
- 2 42. Have been returned to ministry between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.
- 16 43. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2017).
- 4 44. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2017).

Indicate the total number of alleged perpetrators identified prior to July 1, 2016 that:

- 20 45. Were permanently removed or retired from ministry between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 based on allegations of abuse.
- 7 46. Were returned to ministry between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.
- 37 47. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2017).
- 3 48. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2017).

COSTS

\$32,663,290 49. Amounts paid for **all child protection** efforts, including SEC/VAC salaries and expenses, training programs, background checks, etc.

Indicate the approximate total amount of funds expended by the diocese between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 for payments as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor (notwithstanding the year in which the allegation was received):

- \$162,039,485 50. All settlements paid to victims.
- \$10,105,226 51. Other payments to victims (e.g., for therapy or other expenses, if separate from settlements).
- \$10,157,172 52. Payments for support for offenders (including living expenses, legal expenses, therapy, etc.).
- \$27,912,123 53. Payments for attorneys' fees.
- \$2,761,290 54. Other allegation-related costs: _____.
- 12.9% 55. Approximate percentage of the amount in items 50-54 that was covered by diocesan insurance.

In the event it is necessary for clarification about the data reported here, please supply the following information:

Name and title of person completing this form: _____

Arch/Diocese: _____ Phone: _____

Thank you for completing this survey.

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), 2300 Wisconsin Ave NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20007

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*Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs*

APPENDIX C

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES

This questionnaire is designed to survey religious institutes, societies of apostolic life or the separate provinces thereof and will be used to demonstrate progress in implementing the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and reducing the incidence of sexual abuse within the Church.

All data collected here are entirely confidential. Only national aggregate results will be reported.

**ALL DATA REPORTED HERE REFER TO THE PRECEDING AUDIT YEAR –
JULY 1, 2016-JUNE 30, 2017.**

As of June 30, 2017, the total number of allegations received between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 that were:

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 14 A1. Unsubstantiated | 28 A3. Investigation ongoing | (See accompanying glossary for the definitions of these terms.) |
| 4 A2. Obviously false | 23 A4. Unable to be proven | |

The total number of allegations received prior to July 1, 2016 that were resolved by June 30, 2017 as:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 50 B1. Credible | 6 B3. Obviously false |
| 9 B2. Unsubstantiated | 13 B4. Unable to be proven or settled without investigation |

CREDIBLE ALLEGATIONS RECEIVED JULY 1, 2016-JUNE 30, 2017

NOTE: An allegation is defined as one victim alleging an act or acts of abuse by one alleged perpetrator. Only credible allegations (see accompanying glossary for definitions) are appropriate for inclusion in this survey.

63 1. Total number of new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor reported against a priest, deacon, or perpetually professed brother in the religious institute between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. (**Only include members of the religious institute who are clergy or perpetually professed brothers.**)

1 2. Of the total number in item 1, the number of allegations that involved solely child pornography.

Of the total number in item 1, the number that were first reported to the religious institute by:

Choose only one category for each allegation. (The sum of items 3-9 should equal item 1).

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 8 3. Victim. | 1 7. Law enforcement. |
| 4 4. Family member of the victim. | 22 8. Bishop or other official from a diocese. |
| 0 5. Friend of the victim. | 6 9. Other: _____. |
| 22 6. Attorney. | |

Of the total number in item 1 (excluding the solely child pornography cases), the number of alleged victims that are:

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 52 10. Male. | 10 11. Female. |
|--------------|----------------|

Of the total number in item 1 (excluding the solely child pornography cases), the number of alleged victims in each age category when the alleged abuse began: (Choose only one category for each allegation).

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 10 12. 0-9. | 18 14. 15-17. |
| 28 13. 10-14. | 6 15. Age unknown. |

Of the total number in item 1, the number that are alleged to have begun in:

Choose only one category for each allegation. (The sum of items 16-30 should equal item 1).

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 10 16. 1954 or earlier. | 12 22. 1980-1984. | 1 28. 2010-2014. |
| 2 17. 1955-1959. | 8 23. 1985-1989. | 1 29. 2015-2016. |
| 5 18. 1960-1964. | 5 24. 1990-1994. | 0 30. 2017. |
| 3 19. 1965-1969. | 1 25. 1995-1999. | 0 31. Time period unknown. |
| 10 20. 1970-1974. | 0 26. 2000-2004. | |
| 6 21. 1975-1979. | 0 27. 2005-2009. | |

ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

*NOTE: Include any perpetrators who are or were **ordained members of the religious clergy or were perpetually professed brothers** legitimately serving in or assigned to a diocese or eparchy or within the religious institute at the time the credible allegation(s) was alleged to have occurred.*

43 32. Total number of **clergy or perpetually professed brothers** against whom new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor have been reported between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

Of the total number in item 32, how many were in each category below at the time of the alleged abuse? Choose only one category for each alleged perpetrator. (The sum of items 33-38 should equal item 32).

| Priests | Brothers | |
|----------------|-----------------|--|
| 25 | 33a. 7 | 33b. Member of this province assigned within the United States. |
| 3 | 34a. 1 | 34b. Member of this province assigned outside the United States. |
| 4 | 35a. 1 | 35b. Formerly of this province but no longer a member of the religious institute. |
| 0 | 36a. 0 | 36b. Member of another U.S. province but serving in this province of the religious institute. |
| 0 | 37a. 0 | 37b. Member of a non-U.S. based province but serving in this province of the religious institute |
| 1 | 38. | Deacon members of the religious institute. |

Of the total number in item 32, the number that:

| | | |
|----|-----|--|
| 13 | 38. | Have had one or more previous allegations reported against them prior to July 1, 2016. |
| 29 | 39. | Are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing. |
| 3 | 40. | Have been permanently removed or retired from ministry between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 based on allegations of abuse. |
| 0 | 41. | Have been returned to ministry between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse. |
| 6 | 42. | Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2017). |
| 0 | 43. | Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2017). |

*Indicate the total number of alleged perpetrators identified **prior to July 1, 2016** that:*

| | | |
|----|-----|---|
| 14 | 44. | Were permanently removed or retired from ministry between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 based on allegations of abuse. |
| 6 | 45. | Were returned to ministry between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse. |
| 9 | 46. | Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2017). |
| 0 | 47. | Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2017). |

COSTS

\$2,189,308 48. Amounts paid for **all child protection** efforts, including Safe Environment salaries and expenses, training programs, background checks, etc.

*Indicate the approximate total amount of funds expended by the religious institute between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 for **payments as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor** (notwithstanding the year in which the allegation was received):*

| | | |
|-------------|-----|---|
| \$6,749,006 | 49. | All settlements paid to victims. |
| \$466,591 | 50. | Other payments to victims (e.g., for therapy or other expenses, if separate from settlements). |
| \$2,869,490 | 51. | Payments for support for offenders (including living expenses, legal expenses, therapy, etc.). |
| \$5,097,723 | 52. | Payments for attorneys' fees. |
| \$798,569 | 53. | Other allegation-related costs: _____. |
| 2.7% | 54. | Approximate percentage of the amount in items 49-53 that was covered by insurance of the religious institute. |

In the event it is necessary for clarification about the data reported here, please supply the following information:

Name and title of person completing this form: _____
 Institute: _____ Phone: _____

Thank you for completing this survey.

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A PRAYER for HEALING

VICTIMS OF ABUSE

God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong,
always present, always just:
You gave your only Son
to save us by his Blood on the Cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters
who have been gravely harmed,
and the cries of those who love them.
Soothe their restless hearts with hope,
steady their shaken spirits with faith.
Grant them justice for their cause,
enlightened by your truth.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform brokenness into wholeness.
Grant us the courage and wisdom,
humility and grace, to act with justice.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.