

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



SECRETARIAT
OF CHILD
AND YOUTH
PROTECTION

NATIONAL
REVIEW BOARD

UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

MAY 2022

Report on the Implementation of the

CHARTER FOR THE
PROTECTION OF
CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE

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SECRETARIAT OF CHILD
AND YOUTH PROTECTION

NATIONAL REVIEW BOARD

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE
OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
WASHINGTON, DC



The *2021 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, Archbishop José Gomez. It has been directed for publication by the undersigned.

Rev. Michael J. K. Fuller
General Secretary, USCCB

First Printing, May 2022

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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His Excellency Archbishop José H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles
President

Preface

This report presents the latest independent audit of the United States bishops' implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, adopted in 2002 and updated most recently in 2018.

This year's report covers 2021, and this year's audit documents, once again, shows that new cases of sexual misconduct by priests involving minors are rare today in the Catholic Church in the United States. According to this latest audit, last year there were 30 current allegations nationwide involving minors; of these about six have been substantiated to date. Every offender was removed from ministry. Every allegation was reported to law enforcement.

As we know, one allegation of abuse is too many. But my brother bishops and I remain firmly committed to maintain our vigilance in protecting children and vulnerable adults and providing compassion and outreach to victim-survivors of abuse.

The ongoing formation of our priests and deacons is vital to our efforts, and I am happy to acknowledge that last year we reached a milestone, with more than 99 percent of priests and deacons being trained in child protection practices. This level of participation reflects our continued commitment to eradicate the scourge of abuse in the Church and in the wider society.

On behalf of my brother bishops, I again want to express our sorrow and apologies to every person who has suffered at the hands of someone in the Church. And again, we pledge our commitment to the healing of victim-survivors and to doing everything in our power to protect children and vulnerable adults.

May we all find hope in Jesus Christ, may the Blessed Virgin Mary be a mother to us all, and may God grant us peace.



National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People

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March 8, 2022

Most Reverend José H. Gomez
President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Your Excellency,

This audit year was marked, once again, by the ongoing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Review Board is pleased with the innovative efforts of Stonebridge Business Partners to continue auditing diocesan/eparchial efforts to implement the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, despite these realities. The audit process continues in a hybrid format, meaning that dioceses/eparchies still could select either an in-person, completely virtual, or hybrid (some in-person, some virtual) format to complete their audit. The reports of data gathered, and interviews conducted have been carefully examined by the National Review Board (NRB) and provided to the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People (CPCYP). After almost 24 months of the pandemic, both Stonebridge Business Partners and the diocese/eparchies that were audited should be commended for their innovation, flexibility, and dedication to the audit process.

This 2021 Annual Report enables us to glean vital spinoff points which can aid us in our ongoing promise to protect and our pledge to heal. Of the 196 dioceses and eparchies, 192 participated in this process indicating that bishops of the United States continue to identify child protection as a priority. However, with three eparchies and one diocese not participating in the process, there is still work to be done to achieve complete compliance with the audit process.

Stonebridge Business Partners found four dioceses non-compliant during the audit year. Three of these non-compliant dioceses, were found non-compliant with Article 2 of the *Charter* requiring that the Diocesan Review Board remain active throughout the audit year.

In 2021, as in 2020, we have seen the impact of COVID restrictions on the ability to meet in person. Despite these realities, other dioceses implemented the use of virtual platforms to ensure diocesan review boards met and reviewed allegations to comply with the *Charter*. The National Review Board understands that some dioceses even changed their policies to include language which allowed for diocesan review boards to meet virtually if necessary. The Board encourages all dioceses to adapt such language in their policies and procedures to ensure compliance.

This year's audit identified 30 new allegations of abuse involving current minors—consisting of 17 males, 11 females, and 2 were unknown. Six of the allegations were substantiated and were derived from four different dioceses. Of the remaining allegations, nine were categorized as investigation ongoing, nine were unsubstantiated, five were categorized as unable to be proven, and one was categorized as referred to provincial. This is an increase of eight allegations involving current minors from last year's audit. This increase demands continued safe environment training, as well as reviews and updates of policies and practices. We can never become complacent and let down vigilance in the area of child protection. We all want to protect the most vulnerable in our Church, so we have an obligation to keep protection in the forefront.

There were 3,073 allegations received that were historical in nature (alleged victim is now an adult and the abuse happened in years or decades past) noting the importance of our continued ministry to pledge to heal those who have been hurt by Church personnel. We have learned that

it may take years for survivors to come forward with their stories of abuse. We remain committed to accompanying survivors on their healing journey, regardless of when abuse happened.

The National Review Board continues to recommend that all dioceses and eparchies participate in the audit, but also audit every single parish in their ordinances. Parishes and school audits provide the most effective evaluation tool for diocesan/eparchial safe environment efforts. Additionally, the NRB recommends examination of the efficacy of safe environment programs for both adults and children to ensure the training is working toward our promise to protect.

The NRB hopes to enhance the audit process by recommending changes to the audit. Suggestions from the NRB include possible expansion of the audit scope to include measures in *Vos estis lux mundi*, and the new changes to Book VI of Canon Law, the creation of a diocesan/eparchial feedback instrument, and a voluntary “mentorship” program between eparchies that do not participate and other eparchies that do.

The NRB is grateful for the modifications which expanded the audit last year. Modifications included interviews of all or most of the diocesan review board members and a three-year look-back at the status of previously reported investigations (or allegations). The NRB and Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection (SCYP) have also contributed considerable resources to the online Resource Toolbox on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) SCYP online community, and the Child Abuse Prevention Empowerment (CAPE) online learning platform. These resources include policies and practices as tools to be used as examples for dioceses/eparchies to support all aspects of the *Charter* and audit process.

This year, 2022, marks two decades since the *Charter's* implementation. As the first article of the *Charter* rightfully commits to healing of survivors, especially during this anniversary year, the NRB proposes the establishment of a singular day in which every parish in every diocese offers a liturgy of lament for victims/survivors of clergy sexual abuse and their families. Additionally, it is essential to examine our previous efforts to prevent abuse and where improvements can be made. The Secretariat, CPCYP, and NRB have collaborated on the High Reliability Organization (HRO) initiative and are thankful to the 18 dioceses and one eparchy who have been trained and put into action HRO principles in their daily processes. The Secretariat staff trained a few members of the NRB, including myself, in HRO this year and we are excited to see what kind of innovations dioceses can apply because of this training. The NRB recommends use of the High Reliability Organization (HRO) principles model to evaluate the 30 allegations of abuse against current minors reported in the 2021 Annual Report. These principles would be a new way to find any areas in need of improvement in our safe environment practices. HRO principles and parish audits will promote the safety of all and ensure that this tragic history is not repeated.

The National Review Board looks forward to continued collaboration with the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, and the Body of Bishops.

May the Lord bless and preserve our efforts to make good on our promise to protect and pledge to heal.

In God's Peace and Healing,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne Healy". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Suzanne Healy
Chair



Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection

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February 10, 2022

Most Reverend José H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Mrs. Suzanne Healy
Chair, National Review Board

Your Excellency, Mrs. Healy,

I am pleased to offer the findings of the StoneBridge Business Partners audit and the survey conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate in this 2021 Annual Report on the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. This *Charter* assists dioceses and eparchies in creating and providing safe environments, victim assistance and accompaniment, diocesan/eparchial policies and protocols, and collaborative and cooperative relationships with civil authorities, religious orders, academic bodies, and institutions.

Each year this report offers a collection of numbers, but the numbers cannot accurately convey the stories of individuals who have courageously come forward and reported their allegation(s) of abuse. Many allegations occurred prior to the *Charter*. There remain allegations of abuse in recent years involving children and vulnerable adults. An important goal of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection is to offer resources and support to dioceses/eparchies as they minister to victims/survivors, and to assist in helping to reduce the incidents of harm by offering safe environment training and education. Through the efforts of many individuals, both lay and ordained, the culture and attitudes surrounding the abuse of children has and will continue to change.

I have developed healthy and holy relationships with victims/survivors. These individuals have blessed me by sharing their stories and how they learned to cope and survive and, in some cases, thrive. I am honored and humbled to be in the presence of such holy people. The Church will be successful in Her journey towards conversion, reconciliation, healing, and hope through the relationships with victims/survivors. The healing of such experiences is a process of listening, accompaniment, and atonement. Healing will take place in due time, just as our faith and trust is developed and nurtured. Together, with our sisters and brothers who have been abused, we can and will weather this storm and grow in the abundant love of our Lord.

May Mary our Mother intercede for us and may Almighty God bless and protect us always.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Deacon Bernie Nojadera
Executive Director



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February 7, 2022

Most Reverend José H. Gomez
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Suzanne Healy
Chairwoman, National Review Board

Archbishop Gomez and Mrs. Healy,

The 2021 audit period marked the eleventh consecutive year that StoneBridge Business Partners completed Charter audit procedures on behalf of the Conference. COVID-19 continued to present challenges to visiting dioceses and eparchies to perform on-site audit procedures. Over the past year, we physically visited 35 dioceses and utilizing remote technologies visited 35 dioceses and eparchies for a total of 70 on-site audit visits. 192 of 196 dioceses and eparchies participated in the audit process.

In an on-going effort to improve the audit process, we continued to build upon the online resources available to dioceses/eparchies by delivering additional PowerPoint presentations to the USCCB to educate safe environment coordinators and other diocesan/eparchial representatives on our audit process and approach. This year's training documents along with prior year efforts are available on the USCCB website. In June, StoneBridge staff attended a refresher training seminar presentation in conjunction with the Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection (SCYP) utilizing remote technologies.

Our work is supported by the efforts of diocesan/eparchial personnel who dedicate their working lives to making a difference in maintaining safe environments. We are grateful for their work in implementing and administering the programs and safeguards that are instrumental to this process. None of this would be possible without the support and prioritization from the bishops who are fulfilling the promise made in creating this *Charter* in 2002. We appreciate the support and confidence that the Conference has demonstrated in our organization.

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

Sincerely,

StoneBridge Business Partners

Thomas F. Englert, CPA, CGMA
Courtney S. Brock, CPA, CFE
StoneBridge Business Partners



Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

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

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February 2022

Most Reverend José Gómez, President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Ms. Suzanne Healy, Chair
National Review Board

Dear Archbishop Gómez and Ms. Healy,

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 *2021 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 2020 *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 2021 took place between August 2021 and January 2022. CARA received responses from all but two of the 196 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB and 140 of the 233 member religious institutes of CMSM, for response rates of 99 percent and 60 percent, respectively. CARA then prepared the national level summary tables and graphs of the findings for 2021, 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 2021.

Sincerely,

Fr. Thomas P. Gaunt, SJ
Executive Director

Phone: 202-687-8080 · Fax: 202-687-8083 · E-mail: CARA@georgetown.edu

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

SECTION I

2021



CHAPTER ONE

SECRETARIAT OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION 2021 PROGRESS REPORT

BACKDROP OF NATIONAL EVENTS

The audit year of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, was unlike any experienced in the past. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to overshadow nearly every aspect of life. The uncertainty and progression of the virus led to a broad range of strategies. This had direct impact on parish programs and safe environment efforts. Staff and volunteers throughout the nation continued innovative efforts to bring the Gospel to the faithful. Their commitment to tend to the spiritual needs of youth was coupled with the emotional and social challenges of the times. Increased and ongoing remote interactions prompted additional changes to safety protocols, with many dioceses updating technology use policies including the manner in which these communications are monitored. Additionally, the abuse of children on the internet accelerated and increased focus is being given to cyber solicitation, pornography, and related activities. Dioceses and eparchies had already included these issues in training for both youth and adults but are now emphasizing these issues more.

On the heels of grand jury investigations and civil investigations into sexual abuse in church organizations, a report was released by the Holy See on November 10, 2020. *Report On The Holy See's Institutional Knowledge and Decision-Making Related To Former Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick (1930 To 2017)* was anticipated but still brought tremendous pain and outrage to many. In a statement about the report, Pope Francis said, "I renew my closeness to all victims of every form of abuse and the church's

commitment to eradicate this evil," Most Reverend José Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles, President of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) reiterated the Holy Father's words on the same day, "[t]his is another tragic chapter in the Church's long struggle to confront the crimes of sexual abuse by clergy. To McCarrick's victims and their families, and to every victim-survivor of sexual abuse by the clergy, I express my profound sorrow and deepest apologies. Please know that my brother bishops and I are committed to doing whatever is in our power to help you move forward and to ensure that no one suffers what you have been forced to suffer." As part of this same commitment, the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People (CPCYP) carefully studied the report. The CPCYP, with the assistance of the National Review Board, identified several issues, and these learnings are being utilized in developing increasingly comprehensive measures to protect youth and promote healing.

Adult education has taken on a new format during the year, as travel was restricted during the year. The drawbacks of remote training are balanced with a few benefits. The Child and Youth Protection Catholic Leadership Conference (CYPCLC) had approximately half of the attendees joining remotely. This dramatically alters interactions with speakers during presentations and significantly reduces the development of collegial relationships that are vital to Safe Environment Coordinators and Victim Assistance Coordinators. The remote option did allow for participation by those who may not have had the time or the financial resources to attend in person. Trainings for diocesan staff on High Reliability Organizations and orientations for Diocesan Independent Review Boards were conducted remotely as well. Podcasts

and webinars were conducted on a variety of topics and the recordings are posted to the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection (SCYP) website.

The audit year ended with the announcement of a revision to Book VI of the Code of Canon Law. This highly anticipated revision deals with penal sanctions in the Catholic Church and was last issued in 1983. Some changes had been made since that time, but this complete revision includes significant changes regarding sexual abuse of minors, sexual abuse of vulnerable adults, abuse of authority, use of pornography, and clarifying definitions. The effective date of the revised canons was December 8, 2021. It is too early to know the full impact of these changes. This revision is regarded as a prime example of the commitment of the Holy See to address the issue of abuse on a global level. After nearly two decades, the Church continues to develop a comprehensive and consistent approach to these offenses against human dignity on a global level.

DATA

A new format of the audit by Stonebridge Business Partners was implemented this year. Details of the methodology and findings can be found in Chapter Two of this Annual Report. Efforts to eliminate lacuna by interviewing more Review Board members and implementing a three-year lookback were well received. This increased rigor is believed to result in more accurate accounting of allegations and enhanced knowledge and efficiency of those who support the efforts of diocesan bishops. A few trends worth noting are likely due in part to pandemic related restrictions include enrollment in youth programs had dropped, the number of adults trained in child protection and background checked decreased as well. Chapter Two identifies the dioceses and eparchies that either did not participate in the audit or failed to meet the mandates of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. In several cases, those who did not meet the requirements of the *Charter* took quick action to resolve the identified issue, while others needed to develop a more comprehensive plan to address the lapse. In all cases, the SCYP reached out to the dioceses and eparchies offering resources, guidance, and support. Dioceses and eparchies may also request a management letter that provides the bishops with suggestions to enhance safe

environment efforts. The letter is voluntary, but the request is yet another demonstration of commitment to excellence and the bishops' promise to protect and pledge to heal. Compliance with Article 2 of the *Charter* has been identified as an area in need of more attention. A well-functioning Diocesan Review Board is central to the establishment of accountability and transparency. The Secretariat will continue to provide resources to dioceses and eparchies, to support and enhance the functioning of the Review Boards.

Chapter Three: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) – Survey of Allegations and Costs is a report that provides additional data collected from dioceses and eparchies across the nation. This report also includes data gathered from religious institutions of men which is not included in the *Charter* audit. This is the second year that the survey included data of allegations first reported in previous years but resolved during this fiscal year. Thus, the information gathered is more comprehensive and provides a clearer picture of case status across the years. In conflict with is change is the lack of information available for allegations that are part of class action lawsuits and/or diocesan and state-wide compensation programs. These typically involve third-party administrators that provide few details about individual cases.

Of some concern is the 24 percent decrease in spending for child protection efforts. As referenced in the Audit report, there was significant decrease in the number of persons background checked and trained in safe environment protocols. This may be an anomaly due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretariat anticipates that safe environment expenses will return to previous levels as social distancing measures decrease and youth programs become more active.

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Rockville Centre did not participate in the study this year. Due to such omissions, it is difficult to compare raw data year to year.

ARTICLES 8-11 OF THE CHARTER

Articles 8 through 11 of the *Charter* ensure the accountability of procedures for implementing the *Charter* across the United States, and therefore

are not subject to the audit. General information regarding the implementation of these articles on a national level can be found below.

ARTICLE 8

The *Charter* establishes the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People (CPCYP).

The CPCYP is to advise the USCCB with comprehensive planning and recommendations on all matters related to child and youth protection. The CPCYP meets on four occasions each year. There are two additional meetings with the National Review Board. The following list identifies the bishops, the Regions they represented and consultants with particular expertise:

November 2019-November 2020

November 2020-November 2021

Bishops

- Bishop Timothy L. Doherty, Chair
Term expires in 2020
- Bishop Peter Uglietto (I)
Term expires in 2020
- Bishop John J. O’Hara (II)
Term expires in 2022
- Bishop Michael J. Fitzgerald (III)
Term expires in 2020
- Bishop Barry C. Knestout (IV)
Term expires in 2020
- Bishop Fernand Cheri, III OFM Cap (V)
Term expires in 2022
- Bishop David Walkowiak (VI)
Term expires in 2021
- Bishop Donald J. Hying (VII)
Term expires in 2021
- Bishop John T. Folda (VIII)
Term expires in 2021
- Bishop Mark S. Rivituso (IX)
Term expires in 2020
- Bishop Michael F. Olson (X)
Term expires in 2022
- Bishop John P. Dolan (XI)
Term expires in 2022

- Bishop James V. Johnston Jr., Chair
Term expires in 2023
- Bishop Mark O’Connell (I)
Term expires in 2023
- Bishop John J. O’Hara (II)
Term expires in 2022
- Bishop Elias R. Lorenzo O.S.B.(III)
Term expires in 2023
- Bishop Adam Parker (IV)
Term expires in 2023
- Bishop Fernand Cheri, III OFM Cap (V)
Term expires in 2022
- Bishop David Walkowiak (VI)
Term expires in 2021
- Bishop Donald J. Hying (VII)
Term expires in 2021
- Bishop John T. Folda (VIII)
Term expires in 2021
- Bishop Thomas Zinkula (IX)
Term expires in 2023
- Bishop David A. Konderla (X)
Term expires in 2022
- Bishop John P. Dolan (XI)
Term expires in 2022

Bishop Andrew Bellisario, CM (XII)
Term expires in 2020

Bishop Stephen J. Berg (XIII)
Term expires in 2021

Bishop William Wack, CSC (XIV)
Term expires in 2020

Bishop Joy Alappat (XV)
Term expires in 2021

Bishop Peter Smith (XII)
Term expires in 2023

Bishop Stephen J. Berg (XIII)
Term expires in 2021

Bishop Enrique Delgado (XIV)
Term expires in 2023

Bishop Joy Alappat (XV)
Term expires in 2021

Consultants

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

Dcn. Steve DeMartino.
*Director for Safeguarding Initiatives
Conference of Major Superiors of Men*

Rev. Luke Ballman
*Executive Director
Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life
and Vocations, USCCB*

Ms. Mary Ellen D'Intino
*Director, Safe Environment Office
Diocese of Manchester*

Ms. Mary Jane Doerr
*Director, Office of Protection of Chil-
dren and Youth
Archdiocese of Chicago*

Mr. Donald Schmid
*Former National Review
Board Member*

Ms. Chieko Noguchi
Director of Public Affairs, USCCB

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

Rev. Michael J. K. Fuller
*Associate General Secretary
USCCB*

Dcn. Steve DeMartino.
*Director for Safeguarding Initiatives
Conference of Major Superiors of Men*

Rev. Luke Ballman
*Executive Director
Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life
and Vocations, USCCB*

Ms. Heather Banis, Ph.D.
*Victims Assistance Ministry Coordina-
tor, Archdiocese of Los Angeles*

Mr. Rod Herrera
*Director, Office of the Protection of
Children and Youth
Diocese of Camden*

Ms. Regina E. Quinn
*Director, Safe Environment Office
Diocese of Columbus*

Ms. Chieko Noguchi
Director of Public Affairs, USCCB

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

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (CPCYP)

To encourage fresh ideas and invigorate participation of all bishops, the CPCYP welcomes new membership every year from one-third of the episcopal regions. Bishop James Johnston, Jr., Bishop of Kansas City, became the new chair in November 2020. New committee members this year are Bishop Mark O’Connell, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston, Bishop Elias Lorenzo O.S.B, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, Bishop Adam Parker, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore, Bishop Thomas Zinkula, Bishop of Davenport, Bishop Peter Smith, Auxiliary Bishop of Portland OR, and Bishop Enrique Delgado, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami.

The CPCYP works closely with the National Review Board (NRB) in the pursuit of advanced knowledge and development of resources related to child abuse and child safety. During this audit period both bodies collaborated on the exploration of research-based studies regarding the effectiveness of training programs for safeguarding minors. These bodies collaborated with SCYP to develop a Bishop Readiness Resource as a tool to assist all bishops in becoming intimately familiar with the many responsibilities associated with child protection and related requirements under Canon Law. The proposed revision of the Diocesan Review Board Resource Booklet was completed and is under review by the Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance.

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 develop an appropriate compliance audit mechanism to assist the bishops and eparchs

in adhering to the responsibilities set forth in the *Charter*.

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

The SCYP provides administrative staffing for the CPCYP and the NRB. It is a resource for bishops in the implementation of safe environment programs and a resource for training and development of diocesan personnel responsible for child and youth protection programs. The Secretariat also serves as a resource to dioceses and eparchies on all matters of child and youth protection, including outreach to victims/survivors and child protection efforts. SCYP provides monthly reports to reflect the activities of the office within the USCCB, the external support to dioceses and eparchies on *Charter* related matters, and the work of the CPCYP and NRB as supported and facilitated by the Secretariat.

In developing an effective audit mechanism, the Secretariat works closely with a third party, independent auditor, StoneBridge Business Partners, to ensure compliance with responsibilities as set forth in the *Charter*. Details of the audit are set forth in this Annual Report.

The Secretariat’s support of dioceses and 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’s emphasis on collaboration, during the month of October, SCYP also focuses on the sanctity and dignity of human life as it joins with the Office of Pro-Life in offering prayers and reflections. The SCYP consults with the Committee for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations to aid the development of Church leadership in living out their vocations in a manner that honors their commitment to our Lord and his people.

When invited, the staff will visit dioceses and eparchies to assist and provide necessary training. On a limited basis and as needed, the staff provides support to and referral of victims/survivors to resources that can aid them in their healing. Staff makes efforts to stay current of national and global events as well as advances in the field of child abuse prevention

and healing. Relationships with other child serving organizations and professionals are constantly being developed to build upon advancements in the field and efforts beyond the Church.

SECRETARIAT OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION STAFF

The following four staff members served in the Secretariat during the audit period of July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

Deacon Bernie Nojadera, Executive Director, has served as the Executive Director of the Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection at the USCCB since 2011. Formerly, 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 has a bachelor of arts degree from St. Joseph College, Mountain View, California; a master of social work degree specializing in health and mental health services from San Jose State University; and a master of arts in theology from St. Patrick's Seminary and University, Menlo Park, California. He has been a member of 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 enjoys offering national/international workshops/training on safe environment/victim accompaniment, safeguarding, HRO (high reliability organization) principles, and topics on leadership and communication. He is married and has two adult children.

Molly Fara, Associate Director, has been with the Secretariat since September of 2020. From 2012-2020 she worked for the Diocese of Joliet where she established the Office of Child and Youth Protection and served as the director. She has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Dayton, Ohio with a major in psychology and minor in criminal justice. Molly earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is recognized as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has a Professional Educator License with School Social Work Endorsement. Prior work experience includes psychiatric hospital, in-patient/out-patient substance abuse treatment, residential treatment center for

emotionally disturbed youth, adult protective services, and employee assistance programs.

Lauren Sarmir, Coordinator for Resources & Special Projects joined the staff of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection in August 2019. Before joining the team, Lauren served as Advancement Operations Manager for the Pontifical North American College's Office of Institutional Advancement. Her previous work experience includes: The Heritage Foundation, United States House and Senate, and United Kingdom House of Commons. Lauren holds a master's degree in International Politics, and a bachelor's degree in Politics specializing in Latin American Affairs/Hispanic Studies, both from The Catholic University of America. She is married and has one daughter.

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 BA in Psychology from Loyola College and an MA in Art Therapy from George Washington University. She is married with four adult children and four grandchildren.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

Protection and Healing

The SCYP interacts daily with diocesan staff and the public and is a vital resource for all who have an interest in protecting our most vital resource, children. Throughout the year, but specifically in April, which is Child Abuse Prevention Month, resources are provided to promote awareness and safety. Consultation is available to assist bishops and diocesan staff in their work with those who have been so gravely harmed. Their desire to skillfully walk with victims down a path of healing is critical to their spiritual wellbeing and transformation into thriving survivors. Liturgical resources are designed and available to all dioceses to foster a relationship with our Lord and comfort all who have been spiritually harmed.

Educational Resources

A multitude of educational resources have been developed and continue to expand. SCYP attempts to engage the public using social media platforms and the USCCB website. Podcasts and webinars have become an integral part of connecting with people. Interviews with subject matter experts are recorded and posted for general consumption. Topics include Theological Implications of the Abuse Crisis, Healing in a Post-Traumatic Church, Communication and Child and Youth Protection, Understanding Civil Law in Child and Youth Protection, and Understanding Canon Law in Child and Youth Protection.

A training in High Reliability Organizations continues to be brought to diocesan and eparchial staff. Implementation of program strategies is leading the Church to be ever more vigilant in protection efforts and better prepared for adverse events. This training program is based on the principles described by Karl E. Weick and Kathleen M Sutcliffe in *Managing the Unexpected*². They include 1) preoccupation with failure, 2) reluctance to simplify, 3) sensitivity to operations, 4) commitment to resilience and 5) deference to expertise.

Development of a three-tiered on-line training resource for Safe Environment Coordinators and Victim Assistance Coordinators continues. Child Abuse Prevention Empowerment (CAPE) level one was completed and set to launch by the end of the audit year. This digital asynchronous program provides the foundational information for these ministries. Additional levels are in development to provide more advanced training and address current developments as the Church continues her efforts to heal from the past and provide a safe environment for the future.

CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (CYPCLC)

The Child and Youth Protection Catholic Leadership Conference (CYPCLC) was hosted by the Diocese of Tulsa, June 20-23 in Tulsa, OK. After the cancellation of the 2019 CYPCLC, diocesan staff were eager to reconnect and re-energize their efforts. This was the first hybrid conference with half of the 200 attendees

joining remotely. Colleagues had the opportunity to convene in person for professional development, networking, and camaraderie. Presentation topics included the examination of *Vos estis lux mundi*, an interview with a teenage survivor of abuse and parents, and updates from CPCYP, NRB and the Secretariat. The hybrid option was quite successful, allowing for greater participation and will be utilized for the 2022 conference to be hosted by the Diocese of Grand Rapids in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Remote and hybrid gatherings led to opportunities for SCYP staff to participate in a number of professional conferences and symposiums. Staff attended the International Safeguarding Conference and served as group facilitators for the North America contingencies. SCYP was invited to speak at the Diocesan Finance Managers Conference. SCYP was also represented on a panel presentation for graduate students at Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

ARTICLE 10

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops established the National Review Board (NRB) during their meeting in June of 2002. The NRB is to collaborate and advise the CPCYP on matters pertaining to the protection of youth. The NRB meets four times each year as well as two joint meetings with CPCYP. There are four standing subcommittees including Research and Trends, Audit, Communications and Nominations. Ad hoc committees are established as the need arises. This all-volunteer Board is comprised of individuals with expertise in fields relevant to the work of the CPCYP. Potential candidates are nominated by their local bishops and go through an extensive evaluation process. Finalists are appointed by the Conference President to serve four-year terms. National Review Board members during this audit period were:

Ms. Suzanne Healy, Chair
Term expires 2022

Ms. Eileen Puglisi
Term expires 2021

Ms. Vivian Akel
Term expires 2024

Ms. Stacie Schrieffler-LeBlanc
Term expires 2022

Mr. James Bogner
Term expires 2024

Dr. John Sheveland
Term expires 2023

Hon. Elizabeth Hayden
Term expires 2023

Ms. Theresa Simak
Term expires 2022

Mr. Steven Jubera
Term expires 2024

Ms. Jan Slattery
Term expires 2022

Dr. Christopher McManus
Term expires 2021

Ms. Belinda Taylor
Term expires 2023

Ms. Thomas Mengler
Term expires 2024

ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL REVIEW BOARD

The CPCYP is reliant on the expertise and advice of the NRB. Utilizing a rigorous selection process, four new members were nominated by the CPCYP to the Conference president for appointments to this advisory group. The new members are Ms. Vivian Akel, Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn, Mr. James Bogner, Archdiocese of Omaha, Mr. Steven Jubera, Diocese of Jackson, and Mr. Thomas Mengler, Archdiocese of San Antonio. The Conference President appointed Ms. Suzanne Healy, former Victim Assistance Coordinator in Los Angeles, and current Board member, as the Chair.

The NRB provided the CPCYP with a proposed revision of the Diocesan Review Board Resource Booklet. Several board members attended the Child and Youth Protection Catholic Leadership Conference, where Ms. Susan Healy gave a presentation about the NRB along with Bishop Johnston, Chair of the CPCYP. Three board members also participated in the International Safeguarding Conference. The NRB placed considerable effort into the review of the Vatican report about Theodore McCarrick. This document provided an opportunity to review processes of the past and the procedures currently in place. The review highlighted the many positive changes that have been implemented, but also lay bare areas that could be improved upon. The NRB continues to collaborate with the CPCYP and explore ways to ensure these events of the past do not occur again.

Interest remains high in identifying an efficacy study of training programs for the protection of minors. The details of several options are currently under review. The board continues to be ever mindful of their ongoing role to assist bishops in healing the wounds that have been inflicted and promoting communal trust grounded in faith.

ARTICLE II

In accord with the *Charter* the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Most Reverend José H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles, has shared a copy of this Annual Report with the Holy See.

CONCLUSION

In the ever-changing landscape of child abuse, this report prompts us to pause and reflect on the past, present and future. There is repeated evidence that children are safer today. Efforts to educate our communities and establish safety protocols allow our youth to experience the innocence of childhood. However, we cannot stop. There is also evidence that we need to continue this work/ministry. If there is one child in danger we must continue this mission, acknowledging that youth safety and victim assistance are core values that we must promote. As described in this chapter, the ministries of Victim Assistance Coordinators and Safe Environment Coordinators continue to evolve. The importance of developing relationships with survivors is key if we are to realize the possibilities of reconciliation, healing, and hope. To quote a survivor, “we are all in this together.”

One constant from year to year, is the courage and resilience of victim survivors. Those who find their voice and speak of the pain they have endured, give strength to those who cannot speak. They are the people who push all of us to change for the better. They are the protagonists of this story. They are the humble instruments of our Lord.

Chapter Two of this Annual Report was authored by StoneBridge Business Partners. Given the independent nature of its charge, the report is reprinted as submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The USCCB does not edit or correct the contents of the auditor's report.

CHAPTER TWO

STONEBRIDGE BUSINESS PARTNERS 2021 AUDIT REPORT

INTRODUCTION

This Audit Report summarizes the results of the 2021 *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 2021 *Charter* audits represent a multi-year audit period with 70 on-site visits and data collection for the remaining diocese and eparchies. StoneBridge Business Partners (StoneBridge) was first contracted in 2011 to provide audit services and collect data from the 196 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.

For the 2021 audit year, StoneBridge physically visited 35 dioceses and utilized remote technologies to perform 35 additional remote visits to dioceses and eparchies, for a total of 70 on-site audit visits ("on-site audits") and collected data ("data collection process") from 122 others. Of the 70 dioceses/eparchies that participated in the on-site audits, there were four findings of non-compliance with certain aspects of the *Charter*.

For the on-site audit process, 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 1, Chapter 1 of the Annual Report. Compliance with the *Charter* was determined based on implementation efforts from the date of the last audit visit through 2021. On-site audits took place between the months of April and December 2021.

To be found compliant with the data collection process, the dioceses/eparchies only needed to submit Charts A/B and C/D. 191 dioceses/eparchies fully participated in the 2021 data collection process, one eparchy partially participated, and three eparchies and one diocese did not participate. Data included in Charts A/B and C/D was compiled between July

1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. This data was due to be submitted on August 27, 2021 for review.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INSTANCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

For the 2021 audit period, there were four findings of Non-Compliance.

The Diocese of Lafayette, LA was found non-compliant with Article 2 due to the Review Board not meeting during the audit period. Subsequent to the audit period, the Diocese convened a meeting of the Review Board which brings the Diocese into compliance with Article 2 of the *Charter*.

The Diocese was found non-compliant with Article 14 for inadequate monitoring of clergy on restricted ministry.

The Diocese of New Ulm, MN was found non-compliant with Article 2 due to the Review Board not meeting during the audit period. Subsequent to the audit period, the Diocese convened a meeting of the Review Board which brings the Diocese into compliance with Article 2 of the *Charter*.

The Diocese of Corpus Christi, TX was found non-compliant with Article 2 due to the Review Board being inactive for the majority of the audit period. Subsequent to the audit period, the Diocese convened a meeting of the Review Board which brings the Diocese into compliance with Article 2 of the *Charter*.

The Eparchy of Newton was found non-compliant with Article 2 due to the Review Board not meeting during the audit period. Subsequent to the audit period, the Diocese convened a meeting of the Review Board which brings the Diocese into compliance with Article 2 of the *Charter*.

INSTANCES OF NON-PARTICIPATION

The following locations did not participate in either the on-site or data collection process, thus no information on these locations could be included in this report:

Chaldean Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle
Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon, LA
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy
The Diocese of St. Thomas, VI

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS REGARDING THE AUDIT ENVIRONMENT

Implementation of *The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People was first published in 2002 and was subsequently revised in 2005, 2011, and 2018. As noted, “*It is to be reviewed again after seven 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. Authoritative interpretations of its provisions are reserved to the Conference of Bishops.*” In November 2021, the Conference voted to accelerate the review of the *Charter* ahead of the planned 2025 review date.

The implementation of the *Charter* in 2002 is specific to the United States Conference as are the Essential Norms promulgated June 17, 2005 and put in force on May 15, 2006. The Preamble to the norms states, “*The norms are complementary to the universal law of the Church and are to be interpreted in accordance with that law.*”

As auditors of *The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* (*Charter*), StoneBridge Business Partners has observed the implementation of the *Charter* since our appointment in 2011. As stated in Norm 2, “*Each diocese/eparchy will have a written policy on the sexual abuse of minors by priests and deacons, as well as other church personnel.*” The current 196 diocese and eparchies that make up the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops each implement the *Charter* per their own policies, procedures and interpretation of the document. The result is 196 different implementations of the *Charter*.

Implementation of *Vos Estis Lux Mundi*

Vos Estis Lux Mundi was promulgated by Pope Francis on May 9, 2019. *Vos Estis Lux Mundi* addresses the sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable persons by clerics and by non-ordained members of institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life. It also contains a detailed process for investigating allegations made against bishops and their equivalents in canon law. StoneBridge is engaged to audit compliance with the *Charter* only. The *Charter* is specific to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and applies to the

crime of the sexual abuse of minors by clerics. When performing an on-site audit, StoneBridge applies the *Charter* to observed facts and circumstances of a diocese/eparchy. StoneBridge does not apply *Vos Estis Lux Mundi* to observed facts and circumstances of a diocese/eparchy. Stonebridge believes that its existence increases the complexity of the audit environment due to potential conflicts in interpretations.

Implementation of New Book VI Code of Canon Law

On May 23, 2021 Pope Francis promulgated a revised Book VI of the Code of Canon Law addressing sanctions applicable to the dioceses of the Latin Church. The effective date of the revised Book VI was December 8, 2021. StoneBridge's objective is to strictly follow authoritative interpretations of the *Charter* as that is the purpose of our engagement. StoneBridge believes that the introduction of the new Book VI for U.S. dioceses increases the complexity of the audit environment due to potential conflicts in interpretation.

Interpretation of the *Charter* within the audit environment

StoneBridge's position is that the *Charter* applies to clergy only. As such, when an allegation is received regarding a non-clerical religious or lay person, StoneBridge believes that articles of the *Charter* do not apply to the situation. Further, StoneBridge's position is that the *Charter* applies to sexual abuse of a minor, not sexual abuse of an adult.

StoneBridge's position is that the *Charter* applies to bishops. A Statement of Episcopal Commitment which accompanies the *Charter* states "*We will apply the requirements of the Charter also to ourselves, respecting always Church law as it applies to bishops.*" This indicates to us that bishops intend for the *Charter* to apply to themselves. As such, when an allegation is received regarding a bishop, StoneBridge believes that articles of the *Charter* apply to the facts and circumstances of the allegation.

COVID – 19 Disruption

The Audit Environment shifted dramatically in March of 2020 due to the global pandemic of COVID-19. The following were observed by the auditors:

- Chanceries and parishes were closed due to physical distancing requirements
- Ministries were paused and restarted in a virtual format
- Safe environment training of children and adults was temporarily suspended
- New delivery methods of training for adults and children were explored
- Background screening of adults working with children was interrupted
- Turnover of staff and reduced staffing levels within chanceries and parishes was noted

StoneBridge has observed a number of different techniques employed by dioceses/eparchies to maintain safe environment programs during this unprecedented time of disruption. Adapting to new circumstances has created opportunities for new techniques in how safe environments are maintained. The impact of the adaptations by dioceses/eparchies is noteworthy.

Key Position Turnover

We have observed that turnover of key positions in a diocese/eparchy can lead to a decline in a safe environment program and, in some cases, non-compliance with the *Charter*. StoneBridge defines key positions as the following: Bishop, Review Board Chair, Safe Environment Coordinator, Victim Assistance Coordinator, and any other individual with significant safe environment responsibilities. During transitional periods of key positions, the level of risk to the safe environment is increased.

Conclusion

The audit environment is complex, dynamic and specific to each Diocese/Eparchy. We believe the complexities of the abuse issues present difficulties in forming an effective response. We encourage Bishops to engage their review boards, outside legal professionals, professionals with abuse related expertise,

and others in laity to assist in the development of an effective response within their Diocese/Eparchy.

The audit environment that StoneBridge works in is not immune to confusion over which Church laws should be applied to a set of facts and circumstances. We recognize the structure of the Church and canon law leaves the response of the Church in the hands of each Bishop and to the Holy See. We encourage Bishops to continue discerning an appropriate path for the US Conference as a whole to pursue regarding *Charter* issues, other forms of abuse within the clergy, and universal Church laws.

COMMENTS ON SELECTIVE AUDIT TOPICS

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS OF DIOCESES AND EPARCHIES

There are a number of steps that Dioceses and Eparchies have taken that go beyond the specific requirements of the *Charter*. We believe these activities provide for a stronger safe environment and we encourage the continuation of these activities. During the 2021 on-site visits we noted the following:

- 96% of on-site visits requested an optional management letter from the auditors during the period. These letters provide suggestions to the Bishop for their consideration while implementing *Charter* procedures within their Diocese/Eparchy.
- Approximately 70% of dioceses/eparchies indicated that they perform parish audits in some form on a regular or “as needed” basis. It is our observation that Chancery offices who maintain regular face-to-face contact with parishes have better results in implementing training and background check procedures than those who do not. StoneBridge continues to suggest to dioceses/eparchies that they consider the feasibility of implementing a formal process to periodically visit parish and school locations in order to review documentation and assess compliance with safe environment requirements. These visits 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. We believe the key element in this process is the development of a relationship that enhances communications between the parish and chancery locations.

- Over 80% of dioceses/eparchies indicated that they require some type of reoccurring adult 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 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.
- Over 90% of 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 ensure that the diocese/eparchy has the most up to date information on those working with minors.
- 29 dioceses elected to have StoneBridge conduct parish/school audits as part of our on-site visit. While optional, StoneBridge continues to encourage dioceses/eparchies to include these in their visits, especially if they do not currently conduct their own audits.

LIMITATIONS OF THE AUDIT METHODOLOGY

The following topics represent limitations within both the on-site audit process and the data collection process performed by StoneBridge during the 2021 audits:

Failure to Participate in the Audit Process

Participation in the audit process is not required under the *Charter*. StoneBridge has yet to witness full

participation from all Dioceses and Eparchies during the eleven audit years we have been engaged. Until there is full participation, we are limited in our ability to opine on whether or not the *Charter* has been fully implemented within the US conference.

Vos Estis Lux Mundi and New Book VI Changes

As previously noted, *Vos Estis Lux Mundi* for the universal Church and the new Book VI of the Code of Canon Law for the Latin Church both constitute binding Church law. The *Charter* and *Essential Norms* are specific to the United States. Of these documents, StoneBridge is engaged to audit the implementation of the *Charter* only.

Parish/School Site Visits

As noted under additional actions, approximately 70% of Dioceses/Eparchies have a formal process in place to visit parishes and schools to verify implementation of *Charter* policies at a local level. This leaves approximately 30% of Dioceses and Eparchies that do not have a visitation procedure in place to verify that parishes and schools have effectively implemented *Charter* procedures at the local level. While this process is not a *Charter* requirement, the lack of on-site verification by Dioceses/Eparchies limits the auditors visibility on whether or not the *Charter* has been effectively implemented within those Dioceses and Eparchies.

Review of Clergy Files

A number of Dioceses and Eparchies have undertaken a review of Clergy files in recent years. Subsequent to some of these reviews, Dioceses and Eparchies have either released lists of clergy who have substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of a minor or updated lists previously released. The file review information and the lists published by Dioceses and Eparchies are not part of the audit process.

Seminaries

StoneBridge makes inquiries of Diocesan staff responsible for the formation of seminarians. StoneBridge

does not normally visit Seminaries located within a Diocese.

Resources of Dioceses/Eparchies and Submission of Data on Charts A/B and C/D

We have noted in past years that each Diocese and Eparchy has different levels of resources available to implement the *Charter*. Some dioceses and eparchies continue to struggle with outdated information, lack of cooperation at the parish/school level, and inefficient processes for the information gathered. COVID-19 has impacted dioceses/eparchies ability to gather data for submission regardless of the systems in place.

Upon review of the information presented, we noted instances of incomplete or inaccurate information being provided on Charts A/B and C/D. StoneBridge has observed a history of incomplete or inaccurate data in the submission of the Charts both pre and post COVID-19 onset. For the current audit year, 25% of Dioceses and Eparchies submitted the data past the due date. The late submission limits the ability to review Charts A/B and C/D for completeness and accuracy. It is important to note that while there is a review of the information submitted, StoneBridge does not audit the data collected from Charts A/B and C/D.

OTHER AUDIT FINDINGS AND COMMENTS

The following details observations StoneBridge auditors made during the on-site audit process in the 2021 audit year. We believe that if each topic is addressed proactively by Dioceses and Eparchies, a safer environment can be achieved. The topics are categorized by *Charter* article.

Topics observed in *more* than 30% of dioceses/eparchies visited during 2021:

Article 2

- Review Board Functioning - We observed a variety of topics indicating some dysfunction of Review Boards including lack of meetings, inadequate composition or membership, not following the by-laws of the Board, members not confident in

their duties, lack of rotation of members, and a lack of review of Diocesan/Eparchial policies and procedures.

The Review Board is intended to be a confidential consultative body to assist the Bishop. Dioceses/Eparchies are encouraged to use the resources and talents of their review board members to ensure that *Charter* related policies and procedures are relevant.

Articles 2, 4, and 6 – Policies and Procedures/Codes of Conduct

- The Child Protection Policy did not include language regarding Child Pornography or individuals who habitually lack the use of reason per the 2011 *Charter* revision.
- The Codes of Conduct did not include language regarding Child Pornography or individuals who habitually lack the use of reason per the 2011 *Charter* revision.

Articles 5 and 14

- There were no documented policies regarding one of the following items regarding accused clergy: presumption of innocence, retention of civil and canonical counsel, steps to restore good name if allegation is deemed not substantiated, or transfer of clergy.

Other topics observed in *less than 30%* of dioceses/eparchies visited during 2021:

Article 2

- Reporting procedures were not 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.
- Reporting procedures were not consistently displayed at parishes and schools.
- There were instances where the Victim's Assistance Coordinator was a member of clergy or was performing duties that could be considered a conflict of interest when coordinating pastoral care for those sexually abused.
- There were instances where the Victim Assistance Coordinator was not fully aware of all of their responsibilities.

Articles 5 and 14

- There was no formal plan in place to monitor the whereabouts or activities of clergy removed from active ministry.

Article 7

- There was no formal policy concerning communications with the public regarding sexual abuse of minors by clergy.

Articles 12 and 13

- Some clergy, employees, and volunteers were not trained or background checked, but had 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.
- A higher percentage of children were reported as untrained. COVID has impacted this area of Safe Environment. It is the responsibility of the diocese/eparchy to work with parishes to ensure the training program for children/youth is working effectively.
- 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. We observed either outdated letters that were not inclusive of programs in use by parishes and schools, letters from a previous Bishop, or no documented promulgation.
- Renewal training is not required by the *Charter*. We noted Dioceses/Eparchies that were not effectively monitoring compliance with their own internal policy requirements for renewal training.
- Renewal of Background Checks is not required by the *Charter*. We noted Dioceses/Eparchies that were not effectively monitoring compliance with their own internal policy requirements for renewal of background checks.
- 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.
- Parishes/schools had difficulty in providing a current listing of employees and volunteers to

demonstrate training and background check figures being reported to the diocese/eparchy. In some cases, parishes/schools were not required to submit any type of roster with their annual reporting to the diocese/eparchy. The diocese/eparchy cannot effectively monitor compliance without being able to verify the number of people being reported from parishes/schools each year.

- Poor recordkeeping of individuals trained and background checked led to inaccurate reporting of statistics on Chart C/D.

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, remote procedures and the completion of the audit.

Due to COVID restrictions, all of the StoneBridge hosted training sessions were performed remotely. The *Charter* was most recently revised in 2018. These revisions were included in the 2021 audit process. Additionally, the 2021 audit process implemented three significant changes that were previously approved by the USCCB Administrative Committee. There were no changes to the previous data collection process.

The first, and most significant, of these changes was a change to the on-site audit period. Previously, the audit period encompassed a twelve month period, ended June 30. The 2021 on-site process implemented a longer audit period from the most recent calendar quarter-end prior to fieldwork beginning to the date of the prior on-site audit visit. Typically this encompassed a three year audit period from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021. The second change expanded the timeframe to complete the *Charter* Audit process. Previously, all audit fieldwork had to be completed between July 1 through November. The 2021 on-site audits were conducted between the week of April 5, 2021 and the week of December 3, 2021. The final change to the 2021 audit process expanded the detail and number of review board interviews performed during fieldwork. The inclusion of the majority or all review board members in the on-site interview process was implemented during the current audit year.

Prior to the start of the audit year, StoneBridge and the SCYP distributed presentation materials to all safe environment coordinators and other diocesan/eparchial representatives to educate them on our audit process, changes and approach. Additionally, these materials continued to express our anticipated changes due to COVID concerns and restrictions. Subsequent to the distribution of the training materials, StoneBridge and SCYP hosted a Zoom webinar to discuss and answer questions regarding our updated audit process and approach. Other training materials and recordings were also developed by StoneBridge to assist safe environment coordinators and other diocesan/eparchial representatives prepare for the on-site audit, including: Questions and Answers for the Modifications Webinar, Review Board Questionnaire and a YouTube recording of the on-site audit process.

Whether participating in an on-site audit or a data collection audit, each diocese and eparchy is asked to complete two documents; Chart A/B and Chart C/D annually. 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 year ended June 30. 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 is 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. The auditors also inquire as to the parishes' policies involving visiting priests. During the 2021 audit year,

parish audits could also be performed by utilizing remote procedures.

At the completion of each on-site audit, the auditors prepare up to three 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 is referred to as the Participation Letter. This letter communicates that the diocese/eparchy has submitted contact information, Chart A/B and Chart C/D. It also indicates the year of the next scheduled on-site audit.

The third letter is optional, unless compliance is considered in jeopardy, and is called the Management Letter. This 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." When a situation exists where compliance is in jeopardy, the comments regarding potential compliance issues are separated in the letter from the 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 2021 can be found in *Appendix II* of this report.

At the completion of each data collection audit, the bishop or eparch will receive two letters; a participation and data collection compliance letter. The participation letter communicates that the diocese/eparchy has submitted contact information, Chart A/B and Chart C/D. It also indicates the year of the

next scheduled on-site audit. The data collection compliance letter states whether or not a diocese or eparchy is “in compliance with the data collection requirements for the 2021 data collection process.” 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, and will be addressed further during the next on-site audit.

The purpose of each section of the *Charter*, descriptions of each Article, and the procedures performed by StoneBridge to determine compliance are detailed below:

PURPOSE: ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 3 - PROMOTE HEALING AND RECONCILIATION WITH VICTIMS.

ARTICLE 1

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.

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.

Article 2 also states that “procedures for those making a complaint are to be readily available in printed form and other media 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 and eparchies comply with this component by publishing versions of policies and procedures in multiple languages. The existence of these procedures is typically made known to the public by an announcement in the diocesan/eparchial paper, newsletter, website, 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 “regularly to review diocesan/eparchial policies and procedures for dealing with sexual abuse of minors”.

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.

PURPOSE: ARTICLES 4 THROUGH 7 - GUARANTEE AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS.

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 a minimum, a cleric's removal is formally announced to the affected parish community.

PURPOSE: ARTICLES 12 THROUGH 17 - PROTECT THE FAITHFUL IN THE FUTURE.

ARTICLE 12

Article 12 of the *Charter* calls for the education of minors and those who minister to minors 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 the recordkeeping 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 minors. Specifically, they are to utilize resources of law enforcement and other community agencies. To assess compliance, StoneBridge reviewed the background check policy and the recordkeeping 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 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 survey conducted by the 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 the audit process, 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.

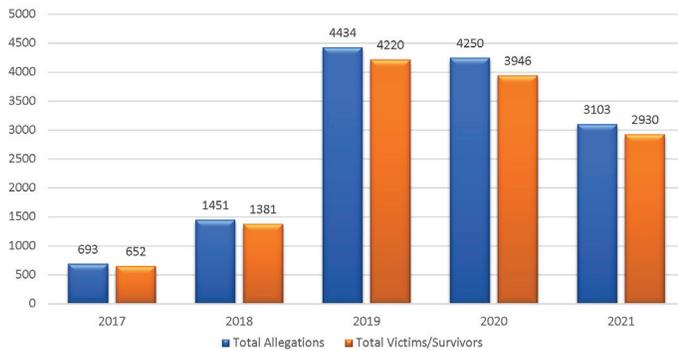
- “Bishop” refers to the head of any diocese or eparchy, and is meant to include diocesan and eparchial bishops and diocesan and apostolic administrators.
- “Candidates for ordination” refers to all men in formation for holy orders, including seminarians and those preparing for the permanent diaconate.
- “Canon law” refers to the body of law promulgated by competent ecclesiastical authorities for members of the Catholic Church.
- “Children and youth” includes all students enrolled in diocesan/eparchial schools and religious education classes.
- “Clerics” is a collective term referring to men who have received the sacrament of holy orders as a deacon, priest, or bishop.
- “Deacons” are ordained to serve a particular diocese or eparchy or an institute of consecrated life or society of apostolic life.
- “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, “dismissal 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” are ordained to serve a particular diocese or eparchy or an institute of consecrated life or society of apostolic life.
- “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”.
- “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 determine an outcome of 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

TOTAL ALLEGATIONS

Between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, 3,103 allegations were reported by 2,930 victims/survivors of child sexual abuse by clergy throughout 192 Catholic dioceses and eparchies. These allegations represent reports of abuse between an alleged victim and an alleged accused, whether the abuse was a single incident or a series of incidents over a period of time. The abuse was alleged to have occurred from the 1940’s to the present. Chart I-1 below summarizes the total allegations and total victims/survivors by audit year from 2017 through 2021.

Chart I-1: Total Allegations 2017-2021



As initially reported in 2019 and continued through 2021, the high number of allegations is in part due to a number of allegations received as a result of lawsuits, compensation programs, and bankruptcies, making up approximately 70% of allegations during 2021. These programs allow those who have previously reported allegations as well as those who have not yet come forward, to be considered for some type of monetary compensation. Additionally, 7% of allegations were a result of clergy file reviews during the current audit period.

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 the diocese/eparchy has completed an investigation 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, 2021, some allegations were still under investigation and 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 or is still in the compensation/bankruptcy process. These were categorized as “Other.” Chart I-2 below summarizes the status of the 3,103 allegations as of June 30, 2021.

Chart I-2: Status of Allegations as of June 30, 2021

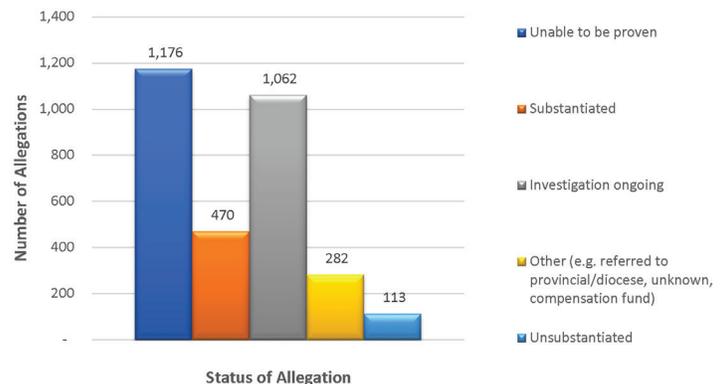
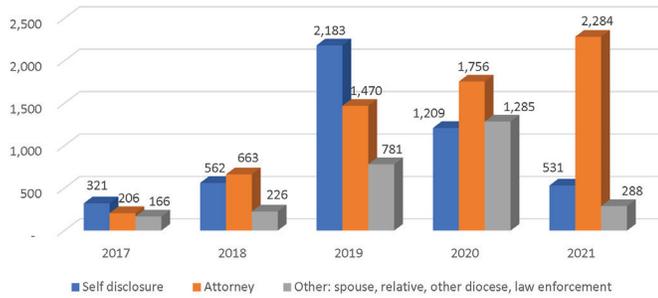


Chart 1-3 below summarizes the ways in which allegations were received from 2017 through 2021. Out of the 3,103 allegations, a total of 2,284, or 74%, were brought to the attention of the diocesan/eparchial representatives through an attorney, making this the principal reporting method during the 2021 audit period. Allegations made by spouses, relatives, or other representatives such as other dioceses/eparchies, religious orders, clergy members, or law enforcement officials on behalf of the victim/survivor were additional methods of reporting, totaling

288 allegations. The remaining 531 allegations were made by self disclosure.

Chart 1-3: Methods of Reporting Allegations 2017-2021



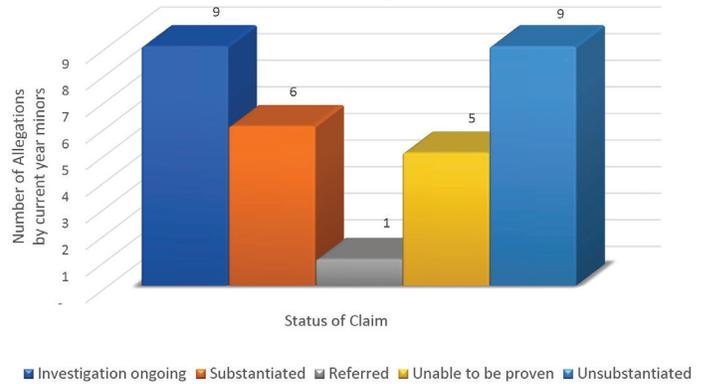
During the current audit period, dioceses/eparchies provided outreach and support services to 285 victims/survivors and their families who reported during this audit period. Continued support was provided to 1,737 victims/survivors and their families who reported abuse in prior audit periods.

As part of the audit procedures, StoneBridge asked dioceses and eparchies to report on Chart A/B the date the abuse was reported, and the date outreach services were offered. StoneBridge compared these dates to determine how prompt outreach services were offered to victims/survivors from the dioceses and eparchies as required by Article 1.

Allegations involving Minors

Out of the 3,103 allegations, 30 involved current year minors—consisting of 17 males, 11 females, and 2 were unknown. 6 of the allegations were substantiated and were derived from 4 different dioceses. Of the remaining allegations, 9 were categorized as investigation ongoing, 9 were unsubstantiated, 5 were categorized as unable to be proven, and 1 was categorized as referred to provincial. Chart 4-1 below summarizes the status of each of the 30 claims made by current year minors as of June 30, 2021.

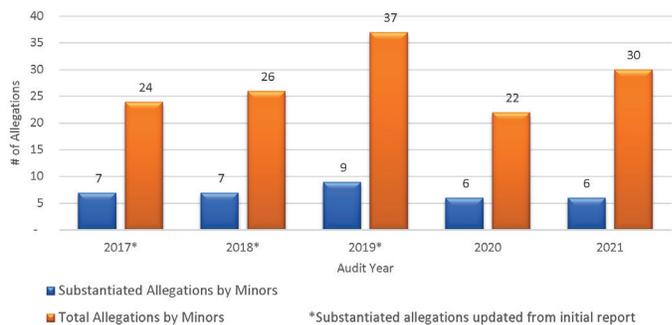
Chart 4-1: Status of claims by current year minors as of June 30, 2021



Revisions to the *Charter* in 2011 included classification of allegations to expand to those who “habitually lack the use of reason” and the acquisition, possession, and distribution of child pornography. There was one allegation involving an adult who “habitually lacks the use of reason” and four allegations involving child pornography. Of the four child pornography allegations, one was unable to be proven, two were referred to the provincial, and one was substantiated as of June 30, 2021.

Part of StoneBridge’s audit procedures is to follow up with the prior years’ allegations that involved minors where the investigation was identified as ongoing. StoneBridge followed up on three allegations which continue to remain ongoing in their investigations. Chart 4-2 below compares the total number of allegations by minors with substantiated claims by minors over the last five years.

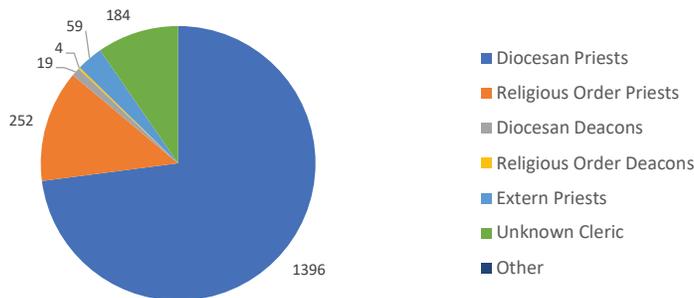
Chart 4-2: Total Allegations by Minors vs. Substantiated Allegations 2017-2021



Accused Clerics

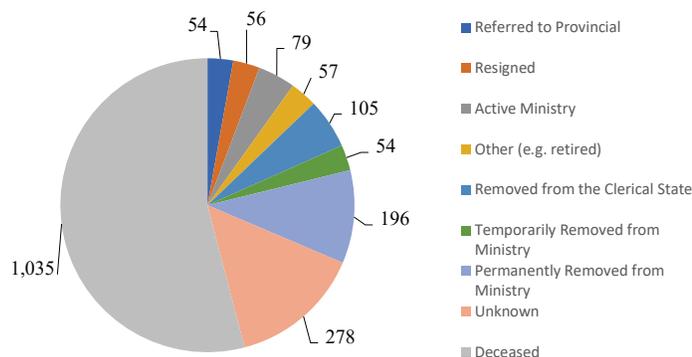
The number of clerics accused of sexual abuse of a minor during the audit period totaled 1,914. The accused clerics were categorized as priests, deacons, unknown, or other. An “unknown” cleric is used for a situation in which the victim/survivor was unable to provide the identity of the accused. “Other” represents a cleric from another diocese for which details of ordination and/or incardination were not available/provided. Accused priests of the audit period totaled 1,707. Of this total, 1,396 were diocesan priests, 252 belonged to a religious order, and 59 were incardinated elsewhere. There were 23 deacons accused during the audit period. Of this total, 19 were diocesan deacons, and 4 were religious order deacons. Allegations brought against “unknown” clerics totaled 184. Of the total identified clerics, 938, or 49%, had been accused in previous audit periods. See Chart 4-3 below for summary of accused type.

Chart 4-3: Accused Type



See Chart 5-1 below for a summary of the status of the 1,914 accused clerics as of June 30, 2021.

Chart 5-1: Status of Accused Clerics as of June 30, 2021



Training and Background Check Statistics

StoneBridge collected current year safe environment training for each diocese/eparchy. The figures provided by dioceses/eparchies for Article 12 were not audited by StoneBridge. The *Charter* does not require clergy, employees, and volunteers to renew safe environment training or background check information. However, some dioceses/eparchies choose to require some form of refresher training and background check renewal. A complete list of safe environment training programs used in dioceses and eparchies can be found on the SCYP website. It is important to note that the figures reported in the categories below, excluding the children category, represent individuals who have been trained at least once.

TRAINING

Children	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Dioceses/eparchies participating	191	195	194	194	194	194	190	188
Total children	2,960,677	3,661,972	4,008,467	4,209,857	4,411,279	4,538,756	4,666,507	4,828,615
Total children trained	2,466,346	3,100,151	3,685,276	3,914,972	4,117,869	4,267,014	4,371,211	4,484,609
Percent trained	83.3%	84.7%	91.9%	93.0%	93.3%	94.0%	93.7%	92.9%
Percent opted out	1.3%	1.0%	1.0%	1.3%	1.0%	1.1%	1.2%	1.0%

Priests	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total priests	32,264	33,469	33,628	33,814	33,917	35,815	36,158	35,470
Total priests trained	32,101	32,600	33,244	33,542	33,448	35,475	35,987	35,319
Percent trained	99.5%	97.4%	98.9%	99.2%	98.6%	99.1%	99.5%	99.6%

Deacons	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total deacons	16,592	16,457	16,344	16,414	16,328	16,423	16,300	16,164
Total deacons trained	16,559	16,391	16,204	16,318	16,177	16,294	16,251	16,089
Percent trained	99.8%	99.6%	99.1%	99.4%	99.1%	99.2%	99.7%	99.5%

Candidates for Ordination	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total candidates	5,547	6,662	6,564	6,787	7,028	6,902	6,577	6,602
Total candidates trained	5,509	6,617	6,482	6,677	6,944	6,847	6,473	6,503
Percent trained	99.3%	99.3%	98.8%	98.4%	98.8%	99.2%	98.4%	98.5%

Educators	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total educators	155,209	164,279	173,236	175,151	172,832	162,988	164,628	161,669
Total educators trained	154,093	163,112	170,611	173,611	170,678	159,764	162,803	160,757
Percent trained	99.3%	99.3%	98.5%	99.1%	98.8%	98.0%	98.9%	99.4%

Other Employees	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total other employees	251,293	256,538	273,156	267,052	270,750	269,250	269,090	256,668
Total other employees trained	247,198	250,480	264,847	261,215	263,606	258,978	260,356	250,087
Percent trained	98.4%	97.6%	97.0%	97.8%	97.4%	96.2%	96.8%	97.4%

Volunteers	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total volunteers	1,608,976	2,107,964	2,218,853	2,205,252	2,088,272	1,984,063	1,976,248	1,971,201
Total volunteers trained	1,581,808	2,069,213	2,136,439	2,163,099	2,041,019	1,912,152	1,930,262	1,931,872
Percent trained	98.3%	98.2%	96.3%	98.1%	97.7%	96.4%	97.7%	98.0%

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Priests	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Dioceses/eparchies participating	191	195	194	194	194	194	190	188
Total priests	32,264	33,469	33,628	33,814	33,917	35,815	36,158	35,470
Total priests background checked	31,824	32,923	33,195	33,592	33,540	35,346	35,720	35,308
Percent checked	98.6%	98.4%	98.7%	99.3%	98.9%	98.7%	98.8%	99.5%

Deacons	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total deacons	16,592	16,457	16,344	16,414	16,328	16,423	16,300	16,164
Total deacons background checked	16,486	16,417	16,320	16,389	16,222	16,050	16,257	16,006
Percent checked	99.4%	99.8%	99.9%	99.8%	99.4%	97.7%	99.7%	99.0%

Candidates for Ordination	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total candidates	5,547	6,662	6,564	6,787	7,028	6,902	6,577	6,602
Total candidates background checked	5,505	6,634	6,506	6,711	6,971	6,841	6,577	6,568
Percent checked	99.2%	99.6%	99.1%	98.9%	99.2%	99.1%	100.0%	99.5%

Educators	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total educators	155,209	164,279	173,236	175,151	172,832	162,988	164,628	161,669
Total educators background checked	152,223	163,442	170,163	173,706	170,719	157,468	158,556	160,273
Percent checked	98.1%	99.5%	98.2%	99.2%	98.8%	96.6%	96.3%	99.1%

Other Employees	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total other employees	251,293	256,538	273,156	267,052	270,750	269,250	269,090	256,668
Total other employees background checked	240,253	254,766	268,417	263,915	265,599	260,409	263,690	251,189
Percent checked	95.6%	99.3%	98.3%	98.8%	98.1%	96.7%	98.0%	97.9%

Volunteers	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total volunteers	1,608,976	2,107,964	2,218,853	2,205,252	2,088,777	1,984,063	1,976,248	1,971,201
Total volunteers background checked	1,518,365	2,083,752	2,156,234	2,163,670	2,022,360	1,927,053	1,935,310	1,931,612
Percent checked	94.4%	98.9%	97.2%	98.1%	96.8%	97.1%	97.9%	98.0%

ON-SITE AUDITS PERFORMED BY STONEBRIDGE DURING 2021

- Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, PA
- Diocese of Amarillo, TX
- Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau AK
- Diocese of Arlington, VA
- Archdiocese of Atlanta, GA
- Diocese of Baker, OR
- Archdiocese of Baltimore, MD
- Diocese of Belleville, IL
- Diocese of Biloxi, MS
- Diocese of Boise, ID
- Diocese of Bridgeport, CT
- Diocese of Camden, NJ
- Diocese of Colorado Springs, CO
- Diocese of Corpus Christi, TX
- Diocese of Covington, KY
- Diocese of Crookston, MN
- Diocese of Dodge City, KS
- Eparchy of Newton, MA
- Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg for Armenians, CA
- Diocese of Evansville, IN
- Diocese of Fairbanks, AK
- Diocese of Fresno, CA
- Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, TX
- Diocese of Grand Island, NE
- Diocese of Greensburg, PA
- Diocese of Honolulu, HI
- Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN
- Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS
- Diocese of La Crosse, WI
- Diocese of Lafayette, LA
- Diocese of Lake Charles, LA
- Diocese of Lansing, MI
- Diocese of Laredo, TX
- Diocese of Las Cruces, NM
- Diocese of Lincoln, NE
- Diocese of Little Rock, AR
- Archdiocese of Los Angeles, CA
- Archdiocese of Louisville, KY
- Diocese of Manchester, NH
- Diocese of Memphis, TN
- Diocese of Metuchen, NJ
- Diocese of New Ulm, MN
- Diocese of Ogdensburg, NY
- Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, OK
- Diocese of Orlando, FL
- Diocese of Owensboro, KY
- Eparchy of Passaic of the Ruthenians (Byzantine Eparchy of), NJ
- Diocese of Paterson, NJ
- Archdiocese of Philadelphia, PA
- Diocese of Raleigh, NC
- Diocese of Richmond, VA
- Diocese of Rochester, NY
- Diocese of Sacramento, CA
- Diocese of Saginaw, MI
- Diocese of Salina, KS
- Diocese of San Bernardino, CA
- Archdiocese of San Francisco, CA
- Archdiocese of Santa Fe, NM
- Diocese of Santa Rosa, CA
- Diocese of Savannah, GA
- Archdiocese of Seattle, WA
- Diocese of St. Augustine, FL
- Archdiocese of St. Paul Minneapolis, MN
- Diocese of Steubenville, OH
- Diocese of Superior, WI
- Diocese of Toledo, OH
- Diocese of Tucson, AZ
- Diocese of Wilmington, DE
- Diocese of Winona-Rochester, MN
- Diocese of Worcester, MA

ON-SITE AUDITS INVOLVING STONEBRIDGE PARISH/SCHOOL VISITS DURING 2021

- Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, PA
- Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau, AK
- Diocese of Arlington, VA
- Archdiocese of Atlanta, GA
- Archdiocese of Baltimore, MD
- Diocese of Belleville, IL
- Diocese of Colorado Springs, CO
- Diocese of Covington, KY
- Diocese of Evansville, IN
- Diocese of Grand Island, NE
- Diocese of Honolulu, HI
- Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN
- Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS
- Diocese of La Crosse, WI
- Diocese of Las Cruces, NM
- Diocese of Manchester, NH
- Diocese of Ogdensburg, NY
- Diocese of Owensboro, KY
- Diocese of Richmond, VA
- Diocese of Rochester, NY
- Diocese of Saginaw, MI
- Diocese of Santa Fe, NM
- Diocese of Savannah, GA
- Diocese of St. Augustine, FL
- Archdiocese of St. Paul Minneapolis, MN
- Diocese of Superior, WI
- Diocese of Toledo, OH
- Diocese of Winona-Rochester, MN
- Diocese of Worcester, MA

SECTION II

2021



Chapter Three of this Annual Report was authored by Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University. Given the independent nature of its charge, the report is reprinted as submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The USCCB does not edit or correct the contents of the auditor's report.

CHAPTER THREE

2021 SURVEY OF ALLEGATIONS AND COSTS

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

FEBRUARY 2022, JONATHON L. WIGGINS, PH.D., MARK M. GRAY, PH.D.

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 2021 Survey of Allegations and Costs, covers the period between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Where appropriate, this report presents data in tables for audit year 2021 compared to audit year 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), 2019 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019), 2018 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018), 2017 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017), 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 *2021 Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs* for dioceses and eparchies was designed by CARA in consultation with the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection. While the versions of the questionnaire used from 2004 to 2019 were nearly identical, this is the second survey year with revised questions concerning the details of the allegations (but the questions about the alleged perpetrators and the costs remain the same). In 2014 to 2019, details about the allegations and the alleged perpetrators were only gathered about the credible allegations that were both reported and classified as credible in that fiscal year. This and last year's surveys, on the other hand, collect those details about

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.

those allegations and alleged perpetrators that were deemed credible during a relevant fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) regardless of when they were first reported to the arch/diocese, eparchy, or religious institute. Where equivalent, comparisons are made to the previous year's data. Where the data is not equivalent, no comparisons are made.

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-August 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, and monasteries. Religious institutes of brothers also participated in the survey of men's institutes, as they have since 2015. This year's questionnaire was the fourth to have alterations in sections of the survey for religious institutes to measure the diagnoses of the alleged offenders.

CARA completed data collection for the fiscal year 2021 annual survey in January 2022. All but two of the 196 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB completed the survey, for a response rate of 99 percent.² A total of 140 of the 233 religious institutes that belong to CMSM responded to the survey, for a response rate of 60 percent. The overall response rate for dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes was 78 percent, lower than the response rate of 82 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, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

DIOCESES AND EPARCHIES

The Data Collection Process

CARA and the Secretariat contacted every diocese or eparchy that had not sent in a contact name by late September 2021 to obtain the name of a contact person to complete the survey. Dioceses and eparchies began submitting their data for the 2021 survey in September 2021. CARA and the Secretariat sent

² The Archdiocese of Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) and the Diocese of Rockville Centre (New York) did not provide a response.

multiple reminders by e-mail and telephone to these contact persons, to encourage a high response rate.

By January 2022, all but two of the 196 dioceses and eparchies of the USCCB had responded to the survey, for a response rate of 99 percent.³ 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 was 99 percent for 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020.

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

Credible Allegations Received by Dioceses and Eparchies

As is shown in Table 1, the responding dioceses and eparchies reported that between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, they judged 968 allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a diocesan or eparchial priest or deacon to be credible.⁴ These allegations were made by 967 individuals against 569 priests or deacons. Of the 968 allegations deemed credible during this reporting period (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021), eight allegations involved children under the age of 18 in 2020-2021. Nearly all of the other allegations were made by adults who are alleging abuse when they were minors.

Table 1. New Allegations Deemed Credible in FY 2021 by Dioceses and Eparchies

	Victims	Allegations	Offenders
FY 2021	967	968	569
FY 2020	1,529	1,539	1,115

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2020-2021

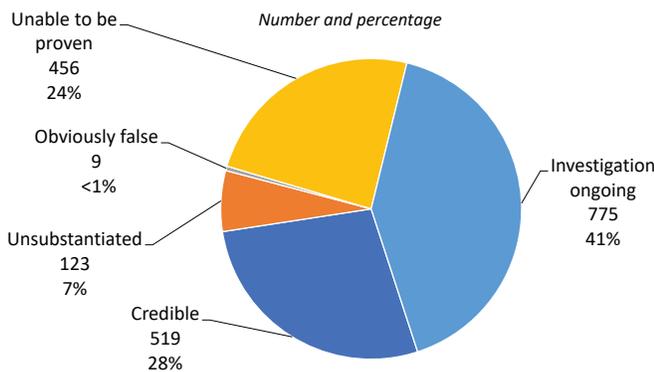
³ The Archdiocese of Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) and the Diocese of Rockville Centre (New York) did not provide a response.

⁴ As was mentioned in the Introduction, the 2020 survey was the first to collect details about all allegations that were deemed credible during that past fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) regardless of when they were first reported to the arch/diocese, eparchy, or religious institute. Thus, comparisons in this subsection are only shown for the two surveys using the same criteria for credible allegations. Previous year's numbers can be viewed in the 2019 report available on the USCCB website at https://cdn.ymaws.com/usccb.site-ym.com/resource/group/1560f0d7-fee7-4aff-afd2-4cf076a24943/resource_tool-box/audit/2019_annual_report_final.pdf

Determination of Credibility for Allegations First Received in Previous Fiscal Years

Each 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 shows those allegations received before July 1, 2020 (1,882 in total). Four-tenths of the previously received allegations were categorized as investigation ongoing (41 percent), nearly three-tenths were found to be credible (28 percent), a quarter were unable to be proven (24 percent), about one in 20 were unsubstantiated (7 percent), and less than 1 percent were determined to be obviously false.

Figure 1. Resolution in Fiscal Year 2021 of Allegations Received before July 1, 2020: Dioceses and Eparchies



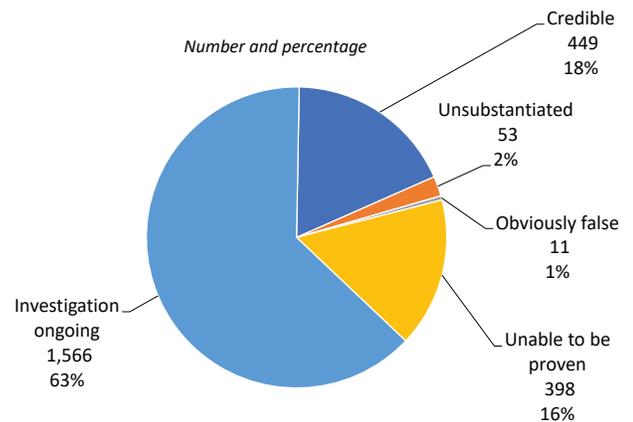
Source: 2021 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Determination of Credibility for Allegations First Received in This Fiscal Year

Figure 2 presents the outcome for 2,477 allegations first received between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Dioceses and eparchies were asked to categorize these new allegations into one of these categories: credible, unsubstantiated, obviously false, unable to be proven, and investigation ongoing. As can be seen below, more than six-tenths of new allegations received in fiscal year 2021 require more investigation before they can be classified (63 percent), about two

in ten were deemed credible (18 percent),⁵ another one in six was classified as unable to be proven (16 percent), and between 1 and 2 percent were unsubstantiated (2 percent) or determined to be obviously false (1 percent).

Figure 2. Determination of Credibility for New Allegations First Received in Fiscal Year 2021: Dioceses and Eparchies



Source: 2021 Survey of Allegations and Costs

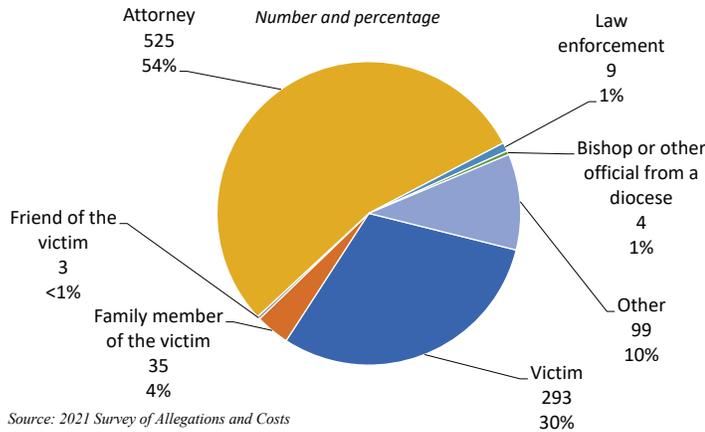
The remainder of this subsection of the report for dioceses and eparchies details the 968 allegations that have been classified as credible during this fiscal year, both those first received in a previous fiscal year (the 519 credible allegations shown in Figure 1) and those first received during this fiscal year (the 449 credible allegations shown in Figure 2).⁶

Figure 3 illustrates the way in which these 968 allegations of abuse were reported to the dioceses or eparchies between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. More than half of new allegations were first reported by an attorney (54 percent), three-tenths by a victim (30 percent), one in 20 combined by a family member of the victim (4 percent) or a friend of the victim (less than 1 percent). One percent each was first reported by law enforcement or by a bishop or other official from a diocese. Ten percent were reported by an “other” source, such as an independent victim compensation program, a state attorney general,

⁵ In conversations with diocesan and eparchial personnel, frustration was expressed that a category was not provided for allegations paid out that are part of victim compensation programs or lawsuits that have few or no details about the alleged victims, the alleged perpetrators, or the alleged abuse.
⁶ The victims and allegations are not evenly distributed among dioceses and eparchies. The five dioceses with the highest number of victims and allegations account for 51 percent of all victims and allegations among dioceses and eparchies. In addition, 95 dioceses and eparchies identified zero credible allegations during this fiscal year.

another diocese, a document review by the diocese, a third party not related to or a friend of the victim, a bankruptcy court, or a reparations program.

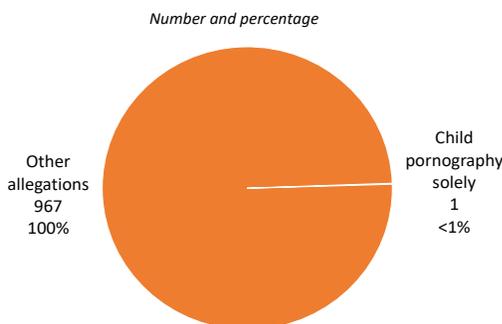
Figure 3. Method of Reporting Allegations of Abuse: Dioceses and Eparchies



Compared to report year 2020, more allegations were reported by an attorney (34 percent in fiscal year 2020 compared to 54 percent in fiscal year 2021) and fewer were reported by a victim (38 percent in 2020 compared to 30 percent in 2021). Also, fewer “other” methods of reporting were identified during fiscal year 2021 (10 percent) than in the previous fiscal year (21 percent).

Figure 4 presents the percentage of all allegations of abuse that were cases solely involving child pornography. One of the 968 total allegations deemed credible from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 solely involved child pornography.

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

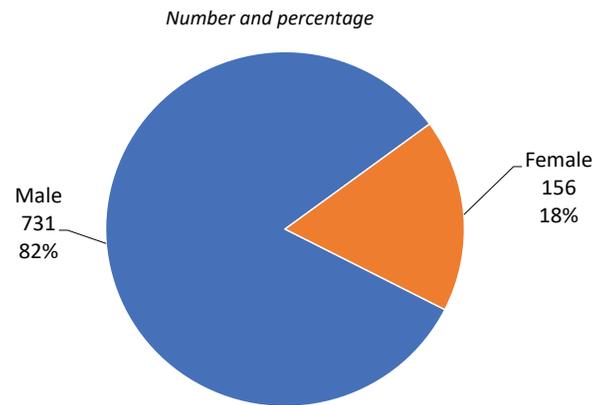


In the previous year (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), 1 percent of allegations solely involved child pornography.

Victims, Offenses, and Offenders

The gender of 81 of the 967 alleged victims reported between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 was not identified in the allegation (8 percent).⁷ Among those for whom the gender of the victim was reported, 82 percent were male and 18 percent were female. This proportion is illustrated in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Gender of Abuse Victim: Dioceses and Eparchies

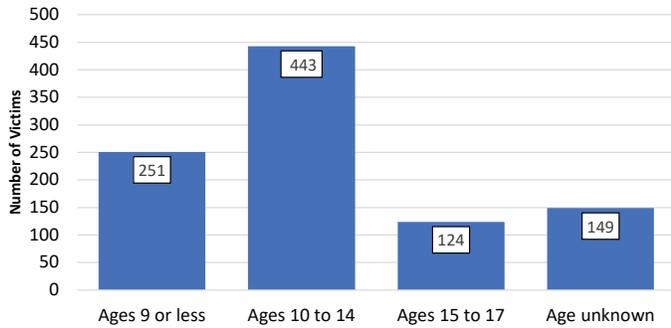


The percentages reported for year 2021 in Figure 5 are similar to those reported for year 2019 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019), where 81 percent of the victims were male and 19 percent were female.

Some 149 of the 967 credible allegations that did not solely involve child pornography did not include information about the alleged victims’ ages (15 percent). Among those 818 where the ages are known, more than half of allegations involved victims who were between the ages of 10 and 14 (54 percent) when the alleged abuse began. Three in ten were under age 10 (31 percent) and one in seven between the ages of 15 and 17 (15 percent). Figure 6 presents the distribution of victims by age at the time the alleged abuse began.

⁷ Details about the gender, age, and year the alleged offense occurred or began are not reported for the one allegation that solely involved child pornography.

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



Source: 2021 Survey of Costs and Allegations

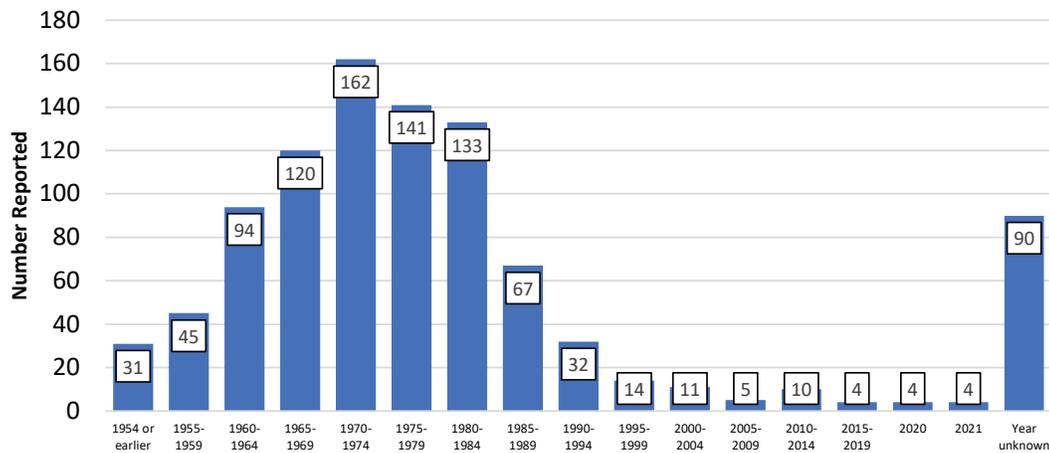
This year’s percentages differ somewhat from those in year 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020). For that time period, 24 percent of allegations involved victims ages 9 or less, 57 percent involved

victims between the ages of 10 and 14, and 19 percent involved victims between the ages of 15 and 17.

Figure 7 shows the years in which the abuse reported was alleged to have occurred or begun. For 90 of the allegations (9 percent) deemed credible between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, no time frame for the alleged abuse could be determined. Among those where a time frame could be determined, 52 percent of all new allegations were said to have occurred or begun before 1975, 44 percent between 1975 and 1999, and 4 percent since 2000. The most common time period for allegations reported was 1970-1974 (162 allegations), followed by 1975-1979 (141 allegations).⁸ Looked at another way, 74 percent of all allegations able to be classified by year were said to have occurred or begun between 1960 and 1984.

⁸ Note that this distribution is similar to the one on p. 34 of this report, which shows the cumulative distribution since 2004.

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



Source: 2021 Survey of Costs and Allegations

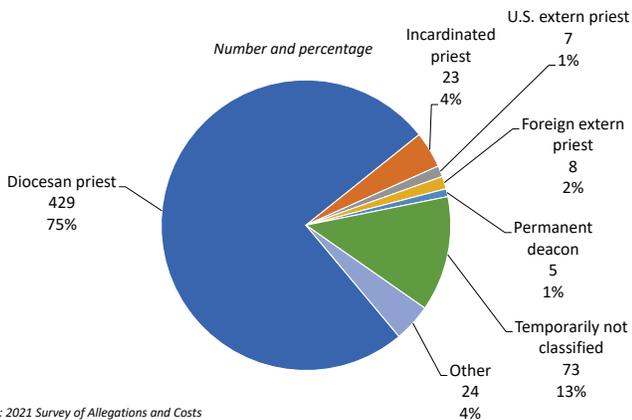
Proportionately, the numbers reported in Figure 7 for year 2021 are similar to those reported for year 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020). For that time period, 50 percent of alleged offenses occurred or began before 1975, 47 percent between 1975 and 1999, and 3 percent after 2000.

The survey for 2021 again asks for details about the priests and deacons who were alleged perpetrators. Three-fourths of the 569 diocesan or eparchial priests or deacons had been ordained for the diocese

or eparchy in which the abuse was alleged to have occurred (75 percent were diocesan priests and 1 percent was a permanent deacon). One to 4 percent of those identified were priests incardinated into that diocese or eparchy at the time of the alleged abuse (4 percent), extern priests from another country (2 percent), or extern priests from another U.S. diocese or eparchy (1 percent). 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



The percentages in Figure 8 for year 2021 differ from those reported for year 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), where 89 percent of alleged perpetrators were priests or deacons who had been ordained for the diocese or eparchy in which the abuse was alleged to have occurred. For that fiscal year, less than 1 percent were not able to be classified, which is the other main difference between the two years. All other categories reported for that time period represented 1 to 5 percent of alleged perpetrators, similar to the percentages shown above.

Consistent with most of the previous fiscal years shown in Figure 9, three-fifths (339 priests and deacons or 60 percent) of the priests and deacons identified as alleged offenders between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 had already been identified in allegations in previous years.

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

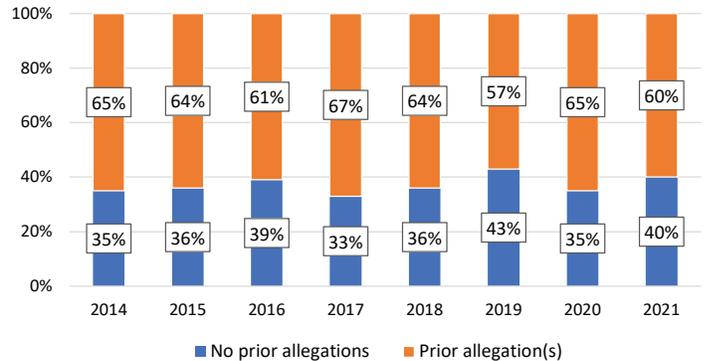
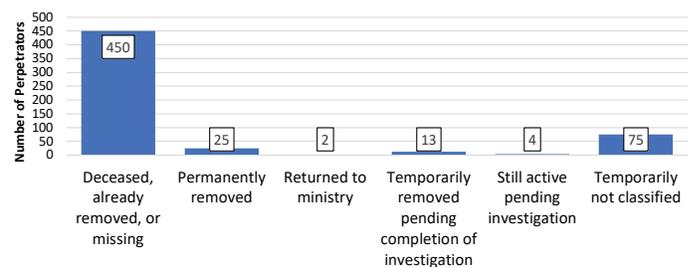


Figure 10 shows the current status of the alleged offenders. Seventy-five of the 569 alleged perpetrators are not able to be classified (13 percent). Among those classified, nine in ten alleged offenders (91 percent) identified between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing. Another 25 priests or deacons (5 percent) identified during year 2021 were permanently removed from ministry during that time. Thirteen alleged offenders were temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of the allegations (3 percent), four remain in ministry pending further investigation of the allegations (1 percent), and two were returned to ministry (less than 1 percent).

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



The proportions for year 2020 are similar to those for 2021, with 91 percent of alleged perpetrators deceased, already removed, or missing and all other categories containing between 1 to 5 percent of the alleged perpetrators.

Costs to Dioceses and Eparchies

Dioceses and eparchies that responded to the survey and reported costs related to allegations paid out \$194,120,218 between July 1, 2020 and June 30,

2021. Like in previous years’ surveys, this includes payments for allegations reported in previous years. Table 2 presents payments by dioceses and eparchies according to several categories of allegation-related expenses for the fiscal years 2014 to 2021.

Table 2. Costs Related to Allegations by Dioceses and Eparchies

	Settlements	Other Payments to Victims	Support for Offenders	Attorneys’ Fees	Other Costs	GRAND TOTAL
FY 2014	\$56,987,635	\$7,176,376	\$12,281,089	\$26,163,298	\$3,890,782	\$106,499,180
FY 2015	\$87,067,257	\$8,754,747	\$11,500,539	\$30,148,535	\$3,812,716	\$141,283,794
FY 2016	\$53,928,745	\$24,148,603	\$11,355,969	\$35,460,551	\$2,020,470	\$126,914,338
FY 2017	\$162,039,485	\$10,105,226	\$10,157,172	\$27,912,123	\$2,761,290	\$212,975,296
FY 2018	\$180,475,951	\$6,914,194	\$20,035,914	\$25,990,265	\$5,755,823	\$239,172,147
FY 2019	\$200,963,319	\$15,890,882	\$12,054,682	\$43,294,968	\$9,407,966	\$281,611,817
FY 2020	\$219,792,758	\$12,096,388	\$11,960,504	\$56,958,656	\$11,172,360	\$311,980,666
FY 2021	\$118,516,493	\$13,103,280	\$9,972,414	\$45,597,100	\$6,930,931	\$194,120,218
Change (+/-) 2020-2021	-\$101,276,265	\$1,006,892	-\$1,988,090	-\$11,361,556	-\$4,241,429	-\$117,860,448
Percentage Change	-46%	8%	-17%	-20%	-38%	-38%

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2021

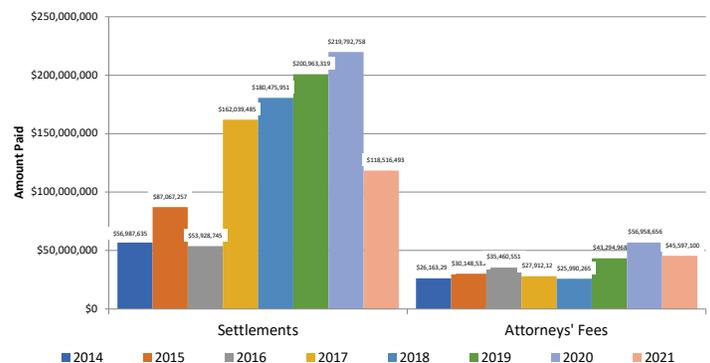
Six-tenths of the payments made by dioceses and eparchies between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 were for settlements to victims (61 percent) and almost a quarter of the total cost is for attorney’s fees⁹ (23 percent). Other payments to victims – those not already included in the settlement – account for 7 percent of all allegation-related costs, and support for offenders (including therapy, living expenses, legal expenses, etc.) amounts to another 5 percent.¹⁰

Among the “other” allegation-related costs reported by dioceses and eparchies, \$6,930,931 (or 4 percent) are payments for items such as investigations of allegations, USCCB compliance audit costs, review board costs, staff and administrative costs, monitoring services for offenders, consulting fees, court costs, and no-fault settlements.

As can be seen in Table 2, the total costs for year 2021 (\$194,120,218) is 38 percent lower than that reported for year 2020 (\$311,980,666). That decrease is mostly due to the decrease in the amount paid in settlements and attorneys’ fees for the year 2021.

Figure 11 displays the costs paid by dioceses and eparchies for settlements and for attorneys’ fees for audit years 2014 through 2021. Compared to year 2020, settlements have decreased by 46 percent and attorneys’ fees have decreased by 20 percent.

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



Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2021

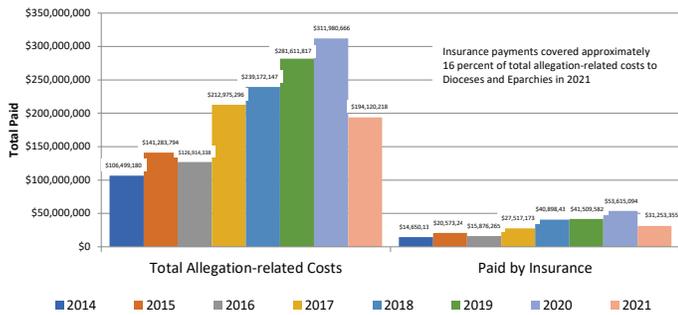
In Figure 12, the total allegation-related costs paid by dioceses and eparchies are shown as well as the approximate proportion of those costs that were

9 Attorneys’ fees include all costs for attorneys paid by dioceses and eparchies between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor.

10 These costs are not evenly distributed among dioceses and eparchies. The five dioceses with the greatest total costs related to allegations account for 36 percent of all reported costs. On the other hand, 34 dioceses and eparchies report paying no allegation-related costs, with another 16 paying out less than \$10,000.

covered by diocesan insurance. Diocesan insurance payments covered approximately \$31,253,355 (16 percent) of the total allegation-related costs paid by dioceses and eparchies between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Insurance had covered 17 percent of the total allegation-related costs during year 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020).

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



Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2021

Some 73 dioceses and eparchies that had made a financial settlement to victims in the past audit year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) responded to a series of questions concerning what monetary sources or changes were used to pay for those settlements. The sources or changes they indicated include insurance pay-outs (34 percent or 25 dioceses or eparchies), sale of property (12 percent), restructuring of debt (10 percent), staff reductions (5 percent), the elimination of some programs or services (3 percent), and bankruptcy filing (4 percent).

Forty-eight percent (35 dioceses or eparchies) wrote in an “other” source, including: their savings or reserves, funds from their self-insurance reserves, loans, payments from their investments, liquidation of assets, victim assistance funds, and their general operating budget.

In addition to allegations-related expenditures, at least \$33,942,134 was spent by dioceses and eparchies for child protection efforts such as safe environment coordinators, training programs and background checks. This represents a 24 percent decrease from the amount reported for child protection efforts (\$44,416,089) for year 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020).¹¹ Figure 13 compares the allegation-related

costs to child protection expenditures paid by dioceses and eparchies in audit years 2014 through 2021.

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



Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2021

Adding together the total allegation-related costs and the amount spent on child protection efforts reported in year 2021 for dioceses and eparchies, the total comes to \$228,062,352. This is a 36 percent decrease from the \$356,396,755 reported during audit year 2020.

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, and monasteries. Since 2014, brother-only institutes were also invited to participate in the survey. Much of the 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 an email about the survey to all member major superiors in September 2021, requesting their participation. CARA and CMSM also sent several reminders by email to major superiors to encourage them to respond. By December 1, 2021, CARA received responses from 140 of the 228 institutes that belong to CMSM, for a response rate of 60 percent. This is lower than the response rate in recent years. The response rate was 68 percent in 2020, 79 percent in 2019, 85 percent in 2018, 74 percent for 2017, 78 percent in 2016, 77 percent in 2015, 73 percent in 2014, 2012, 2011, 2009, 2008, and 2007,

¹¹ Part of this decrease may be attributable to the Covid-19 pandemic that has occurred during fiscal year 2021.

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, 2020 and June 30, 2021 they judged 252 allegations of sexual abuse of a minor committed by a priest, brother, or deacon of the community as credible. These allegations were made by 252 persons against 242 individuals who were priest, brother, or deacon members of the community at the time the offense was alleged to have occurred.¹²

Table 3 presents these numbers. Of the 252 new allegations reported by religious institutes between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, one involved a child under the age of 18 in 2020-2021. Nearly all of the other allegations were made by adults who are alleging abuse when they were minors.

Table 3. New Allegations Deemed Credible in FY 2021 by Religious Institutes

	Victims	Allegations	Offenders
FY 2021	252	252	242
FY 2020	383	383	230

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2020-2021

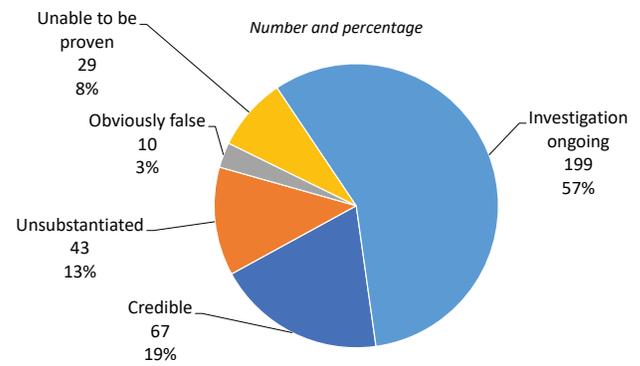
Determination of Credibility for Allegations First Received in Previous Fiscal Years

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 shows those allegations received before July

¹² As was mentioned in the Introduction, the 2020 survey was the first to collect details about all allegations that were deemed credible during the past fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) regardless of when they were first reported to the arch/diocese, eparchy, or religious institute. Thus, comparisons in this subsection are only shown for the two surveys using the same criteria for credible allegations. Previous year's numbers can be viewed in the 2019 report available on the USCCB website at https://cdn.ymaws.com/usccb.site-ym.com/resource/group/1560f0d7-fee7-4aff-afd2-4cf076a24943/resource_toolbox/audit/2019_annual_report_final.pdf

1, 2020 that were resolved by June 30, 2021 (348 in total). One-fifth of the 348 previously-received allegations was found to be credible (19 percent). Among the others, nearly three-fifths need further investigation (57 percent), slightly more than one in ten was found to be unsubstantiated (13 percent), just under one in ten is unable to be proven (8 percent), and less than one in 20 was determined to be false (3 percent).

Figure 14. Resolution in Fiscal Year 2021 of Allegations Received before July 1, 2020: Religious Institutes



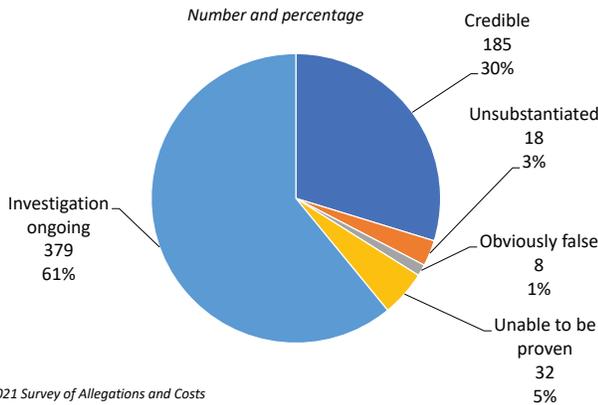
Source: 2021 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Determination of Credibility for Allegations First Received in This Fiscal Year

Figure 15 presents the outcome for 622 allegations first received between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Religious institutes were asked to categorize these new allegations into one of these categories: credible, unsubstantiated, obviously false, unable to be proven, and investigation ongoing. As can be seen in Figure 15, six-tenths of new allegations received in fiscal year 2021 require more investigation before they can be classified (61 percent), three-tenths were deemed credible (30 percent),¹³ one in 20 was classified as unable to be proven (5 percent), and less than one in 20 was classified as unsubstantiated (3 percent) or as obviously false (1 percent).

¹³ In conversations with religious institute personnel, frustration was expressed that a category was not provided for allegations paid out that are part of victim compensation programs or lawsuits that have few or no details about the alleged victims, the alleged perpetrators, or the alleged abuse.

Figure 15. Determination of Credibility for New Allegations First Received in Fiscal Year 2021: Religious Institutes

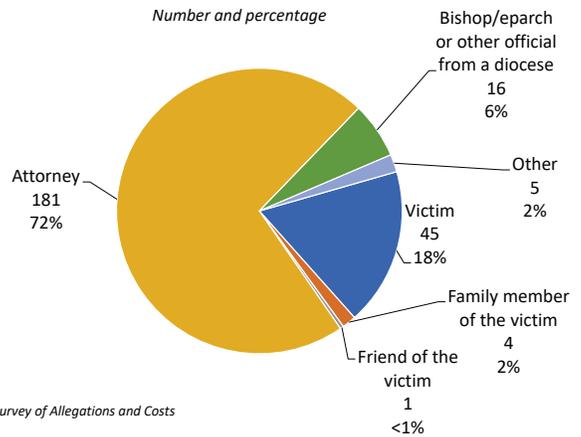


Source: 2021 Survey of Allegations and Costs

The remainder of this subsection of the report for religious institutes details the 252 allegations that have been classified as credible during this fiscal year, both those first received in a previous fiscal year (the 67 credible allegations shown in Figure 14) and those first received during this fiscal year (the 185 credible allegations shown in Figure 15).¹⁴

Figure 16 displays the way in which the 252 credible allegations of abuse were reported to the religious institutes between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. About seven-tenths of the allegations were reported to the institute by an attorney (72 percent), almost two-tenths by the victim (18 percent), and one in 20 by a bishop/eparch or official from a diocese (6 percent). Combined, 2 percent were first reported by a family member of the victim (2 percent) or by a friend of the victim (less than 1 percent). Finally, none of the allegations were first reported to a religious institute by law enforcement. Among the 2 percent who wrote in an “other” source, one each was first reported by the alleged perpetrator himself, by a priest, or by court summons.

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

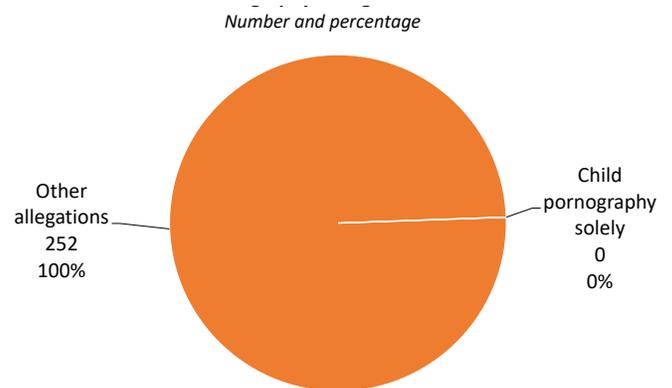


Source: 2021 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Compared to fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), more allegations were reported by an attorney (72 percent in survey year 2021 compared to 52 percent in 2020), but fewer were reported by a bishop/eparch or other official from a diocese (6 percent in 2021 compared to 23 percent in 2020).

None of the 252 new allegations were cases solely involving child pornography, as is shown in Figure 17.

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



Source: 2021 Survey of Allegations and Costs

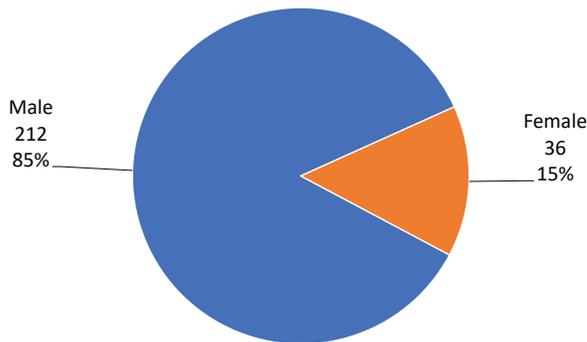
In report year 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), none of the allegations solely involved child pornography.

¹⁴ The victims and allegations are not evenly distributed among religious institutes. The three religious institutes with the greatest number of victims and allegations account for 54 percent of all allegations among religious institutes; in addition, 99 religious institutes identified zero credible allegations during this fiscal year.

Victims, Offenses, and Offenders

For four of the 252 allegations, the gender of the alleged victim is unknown (2 percent). Among the 248 allegations where the gender of the victim was reported, more than eight-tenths were male (85 percent) and one-seventh was a female (15 percent). These proportions are displayed in Figure 18.

Figure 18. Gender of Abuse Victim: Religious Institutes

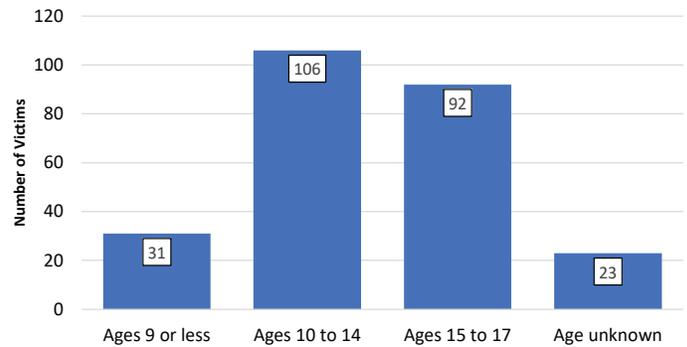


Source: 2021 Survey of Allegations and Costs

The percentage male among victims (85 percent) is similar to that reported for year 2020 (83 percent).

The age of 23 of the victims when the alleged abuse occurred is unknown. Among those 229 allegations where the age was known, nearly half were ages 10 to 14 (46 percent) when the alleged abuse began, four in ten were ages 15 to 17 (40 percent), and about one in ten was under age ten (14 percent). 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



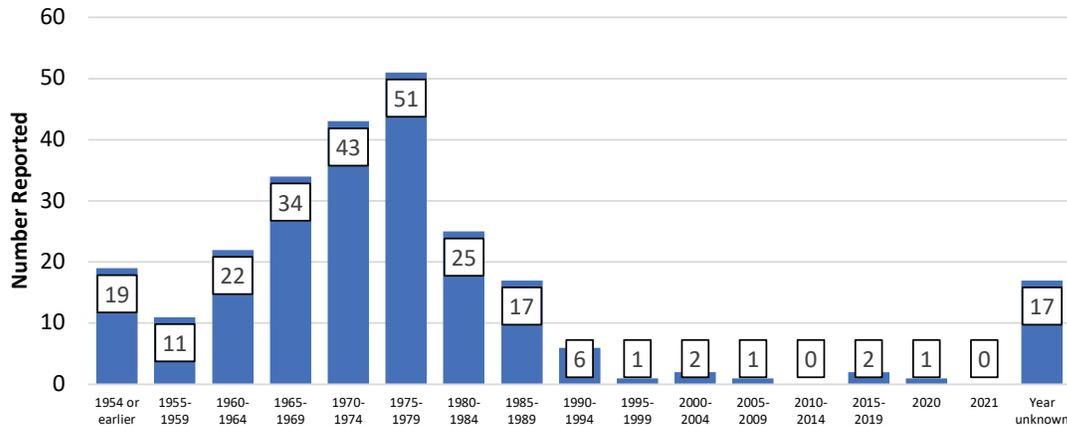
Source: 2021 Survey of Allegations and Costs

The proportions for the previous reporting year (2020) differ somewhat from those presented in Figure 19. Between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, 52 percent of the victims were between 15 and 17 (compared to 40 percent in fiscal year 2021), 38 percent were between the ages of 10 and 14 (compared to the 46 percent reported in 2021), and 10 percent were under age 10 (compared to 13 percent in 2021).

Seventeen of the allegations did not include a time frame. Among those 235 allegations where a time frame was known, more than half of the allegations deemed credible between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 are alleged to have occurred or begun before 1975 (55 percent). Forty-two percent occurred or began between 1975 and 1999, and 3 percent (six allegations) occurred or began after 2000. Religious institutes reported that 1975-1979 (51 allegations) was the most common time period for the alleged occurrences. Figure 20 illustrates the years when the allegations classified in year 2021 were said to have occurred or begun.¹⁵

¹⁵ Note that this distribution resembles the one on p. 34 of this report, which shows the cumulative distribution since 2004.

Figure 20. Year the Alleged Offense Occured or Began: Religious Institutes



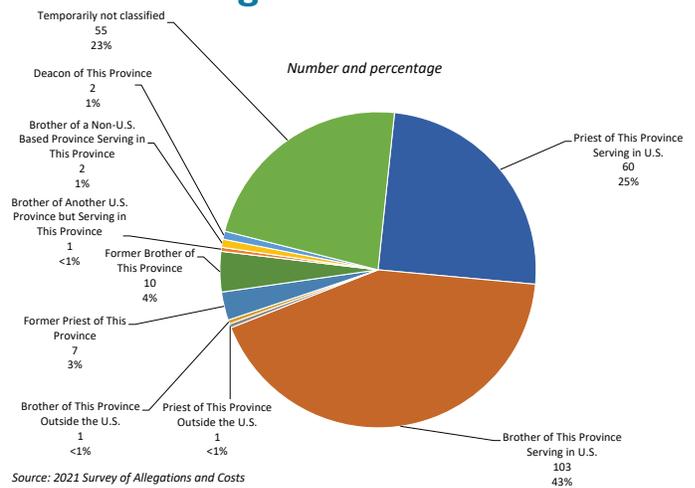
Source: 2021 Survey of Allegations and Costs

In the previous reporting year (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), 60 percent of allegations occurred or began before 1975, 38 percent between 1975 and 1999, and 2 percent in 2000 or later.

The survey for 2021 again asked about religious priests, brothers and deacons who were alleged perpetrators. Of the 242 alleged offenders reported, 77 (or 32 percent) had one or more previous allegations reported against them prior to July 1, 2020.

Of the 242 religious priests, brothers, and deacons against whom credible allegations were determined between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, 55 (or 23 percent) were unable to be classified as of June 30, 2021, frequently due to current civil investigations or litigation. Figure 21 displays the ecclesial status of the 187 identified alleged offenders at the time of the alleged abuse. More than four-tenths were brothers of a U.S. province of the religious institute serving in the United States at the time the abuse was alleged to have occurred (43 percent), a quarter were religious priests of a U.S. province of the religious institute (25 percent), and 1 percent was a deacon of a U.S. province of the religious institute. Less than one in 20 was either a former brother of the province (4 percent) or a former priest of the province (3 percent). Less than 1 percent each were priests of their province outside of the U.S., brothers of another U.S. province but serving in their province, or brothers of a non-U.S. province serving in their province.

Figure 21. Ecclesial Status of Alleged Perpetrator: Religious Institutes



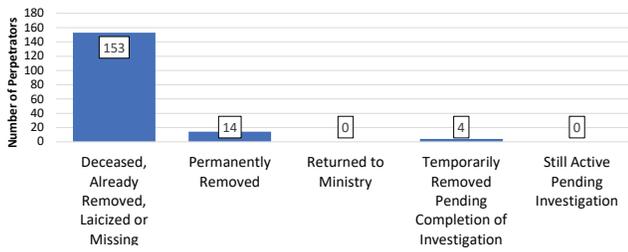
Source: 2021 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Compared to the previous reporting year (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), the percentages reported in 2021 differ somewhat. In 2020, 62 percent of the alleged perpetrators were priests of the province, 27 percent were brothers of the province, 8 percent were former priests of the province, and 5 percent were former brothers of the province.

The status of 71 of the alleged offenders is unknown (29 percent). Figure 22 shows the current status of the other 171 alleged offenders. Nine in ten alleged offenders (89 percent) identified between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing.

Another 14 priests, brothers or deacons (8 percent) identified during fiscal year 2021 were permanently removed from ministry during that time. Four alleged offenders were temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of the allegations (2 percent).

Figure 22. Current Status of Alleged Perpetrators: Religious Institutes



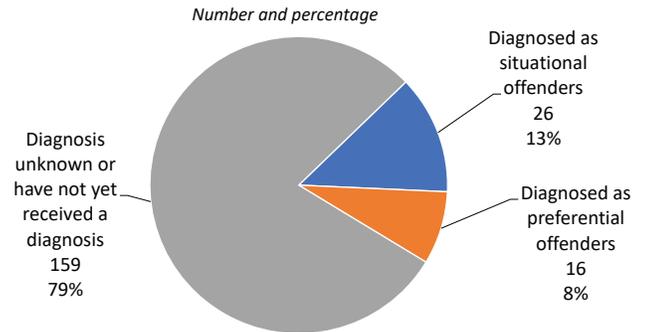
Source: 2021 Survey of Allegations and Costs

Last year’s survey had similar percentages, with 91 percent deceased, already removed from ministry, laicized or missing; 7 percent permanently removed from ministry during that fiscal year; 2 percent were temporarily removed from ministry pending an investigation; and less than 1 percent remaining in ministry pending further investigations of the allegations.

This year, for the fourth time, questions were added to the survey for religious institutes concerning the psychological diagnosis of the alleged perpetrators reported in the current year, with definitions provided to responding religious institutes. Those diagnosed as situational offenders were defined as those who molest “the child for various reasons – most often because of availability – whether male or female – but do NOT have a preference for pre-pubescent children.” Perpetrators diagnosed as preferential offenders “are most often ‘pedophiles,’ who prefer and seek out jobs or ministries with pre-pubescent children.” Finally, those whose diagnosis is not known are those whose records are too “unclear to distinguish any type.” The proportion of alleged perpetrators from the 2021 reporting year that fit each definition is presented in Figure 23 below. Four in five do not have diagnoses (79 percent) and about one in

ten have been identified as situational offenders (13 percent) or as preferential offenders (8 percent).

Figure 23. Diagnosis of Alleged Perpetrators Reported in 2021: Religious Institutes



Source: 2021 Survey of Allegations and Costs

In the survey for the past fiscal year, 68 percent had an unknown diagnosis, 20 percent were diagnosed as situational offenders, and 12 percent were diagnosed as preferential offenders.

Among those reported in Figure 23, responding religious institutes were also asked how many from each category were known to have reoffended. Among the 26 offenders diagnosed as situational offenders, five re-offended (19 percent). Among the 16 offenders diagnosed as preferential offenders, ten re-offended (63 percent). Finally, among the 159 whose diagnosis is unknown, 26 re-offended (16 percent).

Costs to Religious Institutes

The responding religious institutes reported paying \$29,452,301 between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 for costs related to allegations. Like in previous years’ surveys, 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
FY 2014	\$5,950,438	\$570,721	\$3,121,958	\$2,611,220	\$326,130	\$12,580,467
FY 2015	\$5,451,612	\$337,696	\$2,507,513	\$3,592,233	\$446,696	\$12,335,750
FY 2016	\$6,451,112	\$533,626	\$2,887,150	\$4,427,186	\$106,389	\$14,405,463
FY 2017	\$6,749,006	\$466,591	\$2,869,490	\$5,097,723	\$798,569	\$15,981,379
FY 2018	\$13,870,340	\$403,710	\$3,330,931	\$4,527,393	\$1,315,016	\$23,447,390
FY 2019	\$30,131,119	\$930,972	\$3,594,140	\$5,899,252	\$851,705	\$41,407,188
FY 2020	\$14,835,324	\$1,103,112	\$4,726,637	\$9,031,682	\$588,381	\$30,285,136
FY 2021	\$15,059,613	\$382,035	\$4,203,407	\$8,783,079	\$1,024,167	\$29,452,301
Change (+/-)						
2020-2021	+\$224,289	-\$721,076	-\$523,230	-\$248,603	+\$435,786	-\$832,835
Percentage Change	+2%	-65%	-11%	-3%	+74%	-3%

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2021

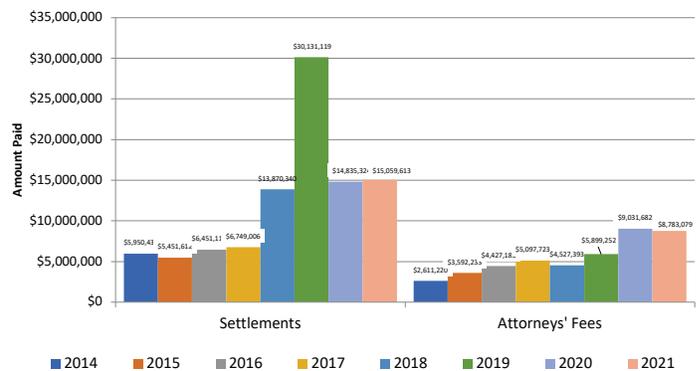
Half of the payments made by religious institutes between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 (51 percent of all costs related to allegations reported by religious institutes) were for settlements to victims. Other payments to victims, outside of settlements, were \$382,035 (1 percent). Attorneys' fees were almost an additional \$9 million (30 percent). Support for offenders (including therapy, living expenses, legal expenses, etc.) amounted to \$4,203,407 (14 percent).

An additional \$1,024,167 (3 percent) was for other costs. Payments designated as "other costs" reported by religious institutes included investigators and investigations, outside consultant fees, counseling fees, postage, media consultants, Review Board costs, and Praesidium fees.

Compared to the previous fiscal year (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), total costs related to allegations were down 3 percent for fiscal year 2021, mostly due to a decrease in the amounts of other payments to victims.

Figure 24 illustrates the settlement-related costs and attorney's fees paid by religious institutes during reporting years 2014 through 2021. Compared to report year 2020, settlement-related costs in 2021 increased by about \$224 thousand, an increase of 2 percent. Attorneys' fees in year 2021 decreased by more than \$248 thousand compared to year 2019, a 3 percent decrease.

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

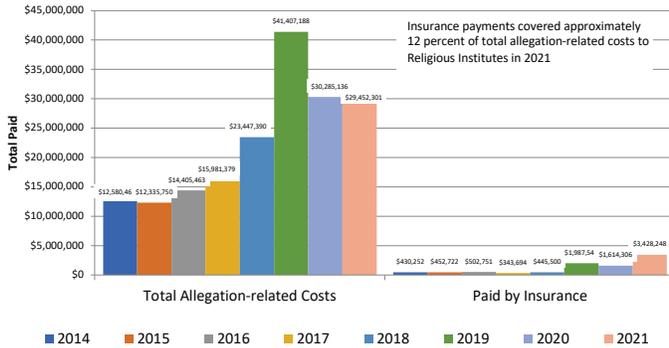


Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2021

Religious institutes that responded to the question reported that 12 percent of the total costs related to allegations between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 were covered by religious institutes' insurance. Figure 25 displays the total allegation-related costs paid by religious institutes for reporting years 2014 to 2021 as well as the costs that were covered by insurance (\$3,428,248). The percentage covered by insurance

in year 2021 (12 percent) was greater than the percentage in year 2020 (5 percent).

Figure 25. Proportion of Total Allegation-related Costs Paid by Insurance: Religious Institutes



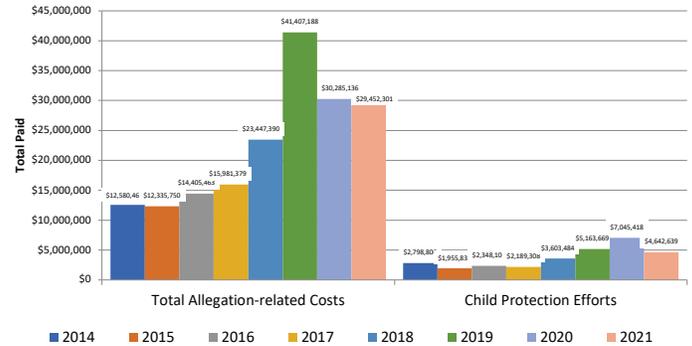
Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2021

Some 35 religious institutes that had made a financial settlement to victims in the past audit year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) responded to a series of questions concerning what monetary sources or changes were used to pay for those settlements. The sources or changes they indicated include insurance pay-outs (29 percent or 10 religious institutes), sale of property (2 percent), and staff reductions (2 percent).

Some 83 percent (29 religious institutes) wrote in an “other” source or change, including: their savings, their general operating budget, a trust set up when the religious institute had earlier filed for bankruptcy, their investments and sale of their investment securities, a victims’ fund, a general fund, and their unrestricted funds.

In addition to allegation-related expenses, religious institutes spent about \$5 million (\$4,642,639) for child protection efforts between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, such as for training programs and background checks. This is a 34 percent decrease compared to the \$7,045,418 reported spent on child protection efforts in year 2020.¹⁶ Figure 26 compares the settlement-related costs and child protection expenditures paid by religious institutes in audit years 2014 through 2021.

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



Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2021

Altogether, religious institutes reported \$34,094,940 in total costs related to child protection efforts as well as all costs related to allegations that were paid between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, a 9 percent decrease from the \$37,330,554 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, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes combined judged as credible 1,220 allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a diocesan, eparchial, or religious priest, religious brother, or deacon. These allegations were made by 1,219 individuals against 811 priests, religious brothers, or

¹⁶ Part of this decrease may be attributable to the Covid-19 pandemic that has occurred during fiscal year 2021.

deacons.^{17 18} Of the 1,220 reported new allegations, 44 (or 5 percent) are allegations that are reported to have occurred since calendar year 2000.

Table 5. New Allegations Deemed Credible in FY 2021 Combined Totals

	Victims	Allegations	Offenders
FY 2021	1,219	1,220	811
FY 2020	1,912	1,922	1,345

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2020-2021

17 As was mentioned in the Introduction, this year’s survey is the second to collect details about all allegations that were deemed credible during this past fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) regardless of when they were first reported to the arch/diocese, eparchy, or religious institute.

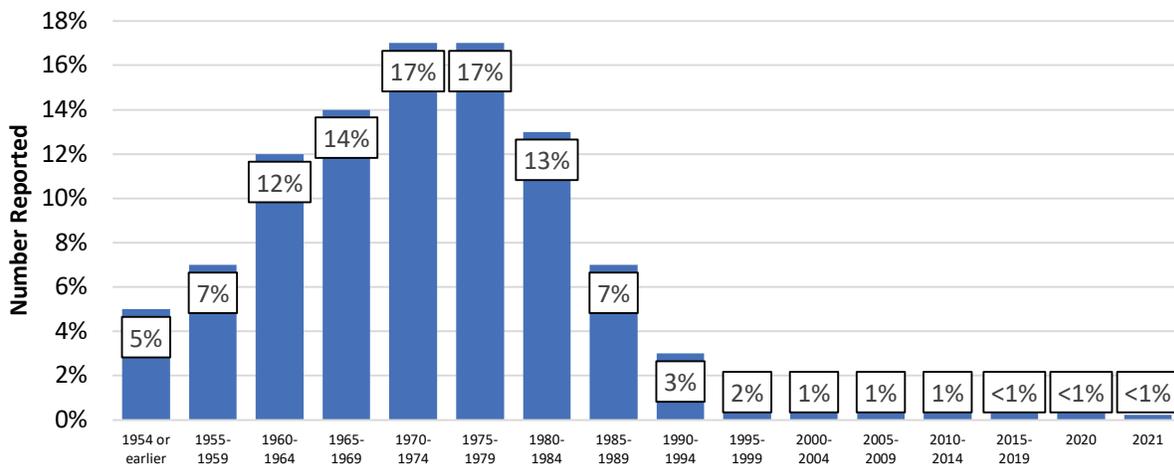
18 The victims and allegations are not evenly distributed among dioceses, eparchies and religious institutes. The five dioceses with the highest number of victims and allegations account for 51 percent of all victims and allegations among dioceses and eparchies; in addition, 96 dioceses and eparchies report having identified zero credible allegations during this fiscal year. Similarly, the three religious institutes with the greatest number of victims and allegations account for 54 percent of all allegations among religious institutes; in addition, 99 religious institutes report having identified zero credible allegations during this fiscal year.

Cumulative View of Year the Alleged Offenses Occurred or Began – 2004 to 2021

Using data that CARA has been collecting from dioceses, eparchies and religious institutes since 2004, Figure 26, below, presents the period that each alleged offense occurred or began for all data collected from 2004 to 2021.¹⁹ Of necessity, the figure only displays those allegations for which the year the alleged offenses occurred or began was known. As can be seen, 55 percent of cumulative credible allegations occurred or began before 1975, 41 percent occurred or began between 1975 and 1999, and 4 percent began or occurred since 2000.

19 As the data collection periods for dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes changed from a calendar year period for the 2004 to 2013 surveys to a fiscal year calendar of July 1 to June 30 for the 2014 to 2021 surveys, there is some double counting during the years 2013 and 2014. Any over count would have a negligible effect on this analysis.

Figure 26. Year Alleged Offenses Occured or Began Cumulatively for 2004-2021: Dioceses, Eparchies and Religious Institutes



Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2004 to 2021

Among all new credible allegations reported by dioceses/eparchies and religious institutes to CARA from 2004-2021:

- 12 percent occurred or began in 1959 or earlier
- 26 percent occurred or began in the 1960s
- 34 percent occurred or began in the 1970s
- 20 percent occurred or began in the 1980s
- 5 percent occurred or began in the 1990s
- 2 percent occurred or began in the 2000s
- 1 percent occurred or began in the 2010s
- Less than 1 percent occurred during 2020 and 2021

Combined Costs Related to Allegations for 2021

Dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes reported paying out \$223,572,519 for costs related to allegations between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. As in previous years' surveys, 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
FY 2014	\$62,938,073	\$7,747,097	\$15,403,047	\$28,774,518	\$4,216,912	\$119,079,647
FY 2015	\$92,518,869	\$9,092,443	\$14,008,052	\$33,740,768	\$4,259,412	\$153,619,544
FY 2016	\$60,379,857	\$24,682,229	\$14,243,119	\$39,887,737	\$2,126,859	\$141,319,801
FY 2017	\$168,788,491	\$10,571,817	\$13,026,662	\$33,009,846	\$3,559,859	\$228,956,675
FY 2018	\$194,346,291	\$7,317,904	\$23,366,845	\$30,517,658	\$7,070,839	\$262,619,537
FY 2019	\$231,094,438	\$16,821,854	\$15,648,822	\$49,194,220	\$10,259,671	\$323,019,005
FY 2020	\$234,628,082	\$13,199,500	\$16,687,141	\$65,990,338	\$11,760,741	\$342,265,802
FY 2021	\$133,576,106	\$13,485,315	\$14,175,821	\$54,380,179	\$7,955,098	\$223,572,519
Change (+/-) 2018-2019	-\$101,051,976	\$285,816	-\$2,511,320	-\$11,610,159	-\$3,805,643	-\$118,693,283
Percentage Change	-43%	2%	-15%	-18%	-32%	-35%

Sources: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2021

Six-tenths of the costs (60 percent) were for settlements to victims. Attorneys' fees accounted for an additional 24 percent. Support for offenders (including therapy, living expenses, legal expenses, etc.) amounted to 6 percent of these payments. An additional 6 percent were for other payments to victims that were not included in any settlement. A final 4 percent of payments were for "other" allegation-related costs.²⁰

Combined Costs Related to Child Protection Efforts and Allegations

Dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes paid \$38,584,773 for child protection efforts between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. This is a 25 percent decrease from the amount spent on such child protection efforts in the previous reporting year. Dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes expended a total of \$223,572,519 for costs related to allegations between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Table 7 presents the combined allegation-related costs and child protection expenditures paid by dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes.

²⁰ These costs are not evenly distributed among dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes. The five dioceses with the greatest total costs related to allegations account for 36 percent of all reported costs among all dioceses and eparchies; 34 dioceses or eparchies report no allegation-related costs and an additional 16 report costs less than \$10,000. Similarly, the three religious institutes with the greatest total costs related to allegations account for 30 percent of all reported costs among religious institutes; 66 religious institutes report no allegation-related costs and an additional 10 percent report less than \$10,000.

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

	Total Amounts for All Child Protection Efforts, Including SEC/VAC Salaries and Expenses, Training Programs, Background Checks, etc.	Total Costs Related to Allegations	TOTAL
FY 2014	\$31,667,740	\$119,079,647	\$150,747,387
FY 2015	\$33,489,404	\$153,539,897	\$187,029,301
FY 2016	\$34,850,246	\$141,319,801	\$176,170,047
FY 2017	\$34,852,598	\$228,956,675	\$263,809,273
FY 2018	\$39,290,069	\$262,619,537	\$301,909,606
FY 2019	\$44,935,299	\$323,019,005	\$367,954,304
FY 2020	\$51,461,507	\$342,265,802	\$393,727,309
FY 2021	\$38,584,773	\$223,572,519	\$262,157,292
Change (+/-)			
2019-2021	-\$12,876,734	-\$118,693,283	-\$131,570,017
Percentage Change	-25%	-35%	-33%

Source: Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs, 2014-2021

Altogether, dioceses, eparchies, and religious institutes reported \$262,157,292 in total costs related to child protection efforts as well as costs related to allegations that were paid between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. This represents a 33 percent decrease from that reported for year 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020).

APPENDICES

2021

The revised *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* was developed by the Ad Hoc Committee for Sexual Abuse of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). It was approved by the full body of U.S. Catholic bishops at its June 2005 Plenary Assembly, and this third revision was approved at the June 2018 Plenary Assembly. The revised *Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons* was developed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse of the USCCB and by the Vatican-U.S. Bishops' Mixed Commission on Sex Abuse Norms. They were approved by the full body of bishops at its June 2005 General Meeting, received the subsequent *recognitio* of the Holy See on January 1, 2006, and were promulgated May 5, 2006. The revised *Statement of Episcopal Commitment* was developed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Bishops' Life and Ministry of the USCCB. It was approved by the full body of U.S. Catholic bishops at its November 2005 Plenary Assembly and then again in 2011 and 2018. This revised edition, containing all three documents, is authorized for publication by the undersigned.

Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield
General Secretary, USCCB

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APPENDIX A

2018 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 abuse¹ 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 for victims, their families, and the entire Church. 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.

We share Pope Francis' "conviction that everything possible must be done to rid the Church of the scourge of the sexual abuse of minors and to open pathways of reconciliation and healing for those who were abused" (Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences and Superiors of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life Concerning the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, February 2, 2015).

Again, with this 2018 revision of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, we re-affirm our deep commitment to sustain and strengthen 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 its causes and context. We will use

what we have learned to strengthen the protection given to the children and young people in our care.

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 each victim for the grave harm that has been inflicted on him or her, and we offer our help now and 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 St. 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). We will continue to help victims recover from these crimes and strive to prevent these tragedies from occurring.

Along with the victims and their families, the entire Catholic community in this country has suffered because of this scandal and its consequences. 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 often casts over them an undeserved air of suspicion. We share with all priests and deacons a firm commitment to renewing the integrity 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. We have seen that words alone cannot accomplish this

goal. We will continue to take action in our Plenary 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 feel 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 rely, first of all, on Almighty God to sustain us in faith and in the discernment of the right course to take.

We receive fraternal guidance and support from the Holy See that sustains us in this time of trial. In solidarity with Pope Francis, we express heartfelt love and sorrow for the victims of abuse.

We rely on the Catholic faithful of the United States. Nationally and in each diocese/eparchy, the wisdom and expertise of clergy, religious, and laity contribute immensely to confronting the effects of the crisis and taking 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 receive from them.

We acknowledge and re-affirm the faithful service of the vast majority of our priests and deacons and the love that 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 and thank victims of clergy sexual abuse and their families who have trusted us enough to share their stories and to help us understand more fully the consequences of this reprehensible violation of sacred trust. With Pope Francis, we praise the courage of those who speak out about their abuse; their actions are “a service of love,

since for us it sheds light on a terrible darkness in the life of the Church.” We pray that “the remnants of the darkness which touch them may be healed” (Address to Victims of Sexual Abuse, July 7, 2014).

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 sixteen 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 safe 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/eparchial 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, was completed in February 2004. 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. The Study, which calls for ongoing education, situational prevention, and oversight and accountability, was completed in 2011.
- Victims' assistance coordinators are in place throughout our nation to assist dioceses and eparchies in responding to the pastoral needs of the abused.
- Diocesan/eparchial bishops in every diocese/eparchy are advised and greatly assisted by diocesan and eparchial 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 the number of reported cases of sexual abuse has decreased over the last sixteen years, the harmful effects of this abuse continue to be experienced both by victims and dioceses/eparchies.

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 sixteen 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 the Kingdom of God 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 St. 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 and other media 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 with due regard for the seal of the Sacrament of Penance. Diocesan/eparchial personnel 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 St. 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." Pope Francis has consistently reiterated this with victims of clergy sexual abuse.

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 notes) 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 with regard to their contact with minors.

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. The Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People is a standing committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. 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*. The audit method refers to the process and techniques used to determine compliance with the *Charter*. The audit scope relates to the focus, parameters, and time period for the matters to be examined during an individual audit.

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, at both the diocesan/eparchial and national levels, must 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 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 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. For example, the Board will continue to monitor the recommendations derived from the *Causes and Context* study. The Board and Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People will meet jointly every year.

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

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 minors, parents, ministers, employees, volunteers, and others about ways to sustain and foster a safe environment for minors. Dioceses/eparchies are to make clear to clergy and

all members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons with regard to their contact with minors.

ARTICLE 13. The diocesan/eparchial bishop is to evaluate the background of all incardinated priests and deacons. When a priest or deacon, not incardinated in the diocese/eparchy, is to engage in ministry in the diocese/eparchy, regardless of the length of time, the evaluation of his background may be satisfied through a written attestation of suitability for ministry supplied by his proper ordinary/major superior to the diocese/eparchy. Dioceses/eparchies are to evaluate the background of all their respective diocesan/eparchial and parish/school or other paid personnel and volunteers whose duties include contact with minors. Specifically, they are to utilize the resources of law enforcement and other community agencies. Each diocese/eparchy is to determine the application/renewal of background checks according to local practice. In addition, they are to employ adequate screening and evaluative techniques in deciding the fitness of candidates for ordination (see USCCB, *Program of Priestly Formation* [Fifth Edition], 2006, no. 39 and the *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States*, n.178 j).²

ARTICLE 14. Transfers of all priests and deacons who have committed an act of sexual abuse against a minor for residence, including retirement, shall be in accord with Norm 12 of the Essential Norms (see *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 and diaconal formation and their ongoing formation. 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*, no. 50, the *Program of Priestly Formation*, and the *Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests*, as well as similar, appropriate programs for deacons based upon the criteria found in the *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life*

of Permanent Deacons in the United States. 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 reaffirm that the vast majority of priests and deacons serve their people faithfully and that they have their esteem and affection. They also have our respect and support 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 and deacons avail themselves of the proven ways of avoiding sin and growing in holiness of life.

IT IS WITH RELIANCE ON THE GRACE OF GOD AND IN A SPIRIT OF PRAYER AND PENANCE THAT WE RENEW THE PLEDGES WHICH WE MADE IN THE 2002 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 diaconate and 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.



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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 seven 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. Authoritative interpretations of its provisions are reserved to the Conference of Bishops.

NOTES

1 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.

2 In 2009, after consultation with members of the USCCB Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and approval from the USCCB Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance, additional Model Letters of Suitability, now available on the USCCB website, were agreed upon and published for use by bishops and major superiors in situations which involve both temporary and extended ministry for clerics.

ESSENTIAL NORMS FOR DIOCESAN/ EPARCHIAL POLICIES DEALING WITH ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS BY PRIESTS OR DEACONS

Most Reverend William S. Skylstad, D.D.,
Bishop of Spokane

May 5, 2006

DECREE OF PROMULGATION

On November 13, 2002, the members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved as particular law the *Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons*. Following the grant of the required *recognitio* by the Congregation for Bishops on December 8, 2002, the *Essential Norms* were promulgated by the President of the same Conference on December 12, 2002.

Thereafter, on June 17, 2005, the members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a revised text of the *Essential Norms*. By a decree dated January 1, 2006, and signed by His Eminence, Giovanni Battista Cardinal Re, Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, and His Excellency, the Most Reverend Francesco Monterisi, Secretary of the same Congregation, the *recognitio* originally granted to the *Essential Norms* of 2002 was extended to the revised version *donec aliter provideatur*.

As President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I therefore decree the promulgation of the *Essential Norms* of June 17, 2005. These *Norms* shall obtain force on May 15, 2006, and so shall from that day bind as particular law all Dioceses and Eparchies of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Most Reverend William S. Skylstad
Bishop of Spokane
President, USCCB
Reverend Monsignor David J. Malloy
General Secretary

PREAMBLE

On June 14, 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The charter addresses the Church's commitment to deal appropriately and effectively with cases of sexual abuse of minors by priests, deacons, and other church personnel (i.e., employees and volunteers). The bishops of the United States have promised to reach out to those who have been sexually abused as minors by anyone serving the Church in ministry, employment, or a volunteer position, whether the sexual abuse was recent or occurred many years ago. They stated that they would be as open as possible with the people in parishes and communities about instances of sexual abuse of minors, with respect always for the privacy and the reputation of the individuals involved. They have committed themselves to the pastoral and spiritual care and emotional well-being of those who have been sexually abused and of their families.

In addition, the bishops will work with parents, civil authorities, educators, and various organizations in the community to make and maintain the safest environment for minors. In the same way, the bishops have pledged to evaluate the background of seminary applicants as well as all church personnel who have responsibility for the care and supervision of children and young people.

Therefore, to ensure that each diocese/eparchy in the United States of America will have procedures in place to respond promptly to all allegations of sexual abuse of minors, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops decrees these norms for diocesan/eparchial policies dealing with allegations of sexual abuse of minors by diocesan and religious priests or deacons.¹ These norms are complementary to the universal law of the Church and are to be interpreted in accordance with that law. The Church has traditionally considered the sexual abuse of minors a grave delict and punishes the offender with penalties,

not excluding dismissal from the clerical state if the case so warrants.

For purposes of these Norms, sexual abuse shall include any offense by a cleric against the Sixth Commandment of the Decalogue with a minor as understood in CIC, canon 1395 §2, and CCEO, canon 1453 §1 (*Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, article 6 §1).²

NORMS

1. These Essential Norms have been granted *recognitio* by the Holy See. Having been legitimately promulgated in accordance with the practice of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on May 5, 2006, they constitute particular law for all the dioceses/eparchies of the United States of America.³

2. Each diocese/eparchy will have a written policy on the sexual abuse of minors by priests and deacons, as well as by other church personnel. This policy is to comply fully with, and is to specify in more detail, the steps to be taken in implementing the requirements of canon law, particularly CIC, canons 1717-1719, and CCEO, canons 1468-1470. A copy of this policy will be filed with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops within three months of the effective date of these norms. Copies of any eventual revisions of the written diocesan/eparchial policy are also to be filed with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops within three months of such modifications.

3. Each diocese/eparchy will designate a competent person to coordinate assistance for the immediate pastoral care of persons who claim to have been sexually abused when they were minors by priests or deacons.

4. To assist diocesan/eparchial bishops, each diocese/eparchy will also have a review board which will function as a confidential consultative body to the bishop/eparch in discharging his responsibilities. The functions of this board may include

- a. advising the diocesan bishop/eparch in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse of minors and in his determination of suitability for ministry;
- b. reviewing diocesan/eparchial policies for dealing with sexual abuse of minors; and

c. offering advice on all aspects of these cases, whether retrospectively or prospectively.

5. The review board, established by the diocesan/eparchial bishop, will be composed of at least five persons of outstanding integrity and good judgment in full communion with the Church. The majority of the review board members will be lay persons who are not in the employ of the diocese/eparchy; but at least one member should be a priest who is an experienced and respected pastor of the diocese/eparchy in question, and at least one member should have particular expertise in the treatment of the sexual abuse of minors. The members will be appointed for a term of five years, which can be renewed. It is desirable that the Promoter of Justice participate in the meetings of the review board.

6. When an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest or deacon is received, a preliminary investigation in accordance with canon law will be initiated and conducted promptly and objectively (CIC, c. 1717; CCEO, c. 1468). During the investigation the accused enjoys the presumption of innocence, and all appropriate steps shall be taken to protect his reputation. The accused will be encouraged to retain the assistance of civil and canonical counsel and will be promptly notified of the results of the investigation. When there is sufficient evidence that sexual abuse of a minor has occurred, the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith shall be notified. The bishop/eparch shall then apply the precautionary measures mentioned in CIC, canon 1722, or CCEO, canon 1473—i.e., withdraw the accused from exercising the sacred ministry or any ecclesiastical office or function, impose or prohibit residence in a given place or territory, and prohibit public participation in the Most Holy Eucharist pending the outcome of the process.⁴

7. The alleged offender may be requested to seek, and may be urged voluntarily to comply with, an appropriate medical and psychological evaluation at a facility mutually acceptable to the diocese/eparchy and to the accused.

8. When even a single act of sexual abuse by a priest or deacon is admitted or is established after an appropriate process in accord with canon law, the offending priest or deacon will be removed permanently from ecclesiastical ministry, not excluding dismissal

from the clerical state, if the case so warrants (SST, Art. 6; CIC, c. 1395 §2; CCEO, c. 1453 §1).⁵

a. In every case involving canonical penalties, the processes provided for in canon law must be observed, and the various provisions of canon law must be considered (cf. *Canonical Delicts Involving Sexual Misconduct and Dismissal from the Clerical State*, 1995; Letter from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, May 18, 2001). Unless the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, having been notified, calls the case to itself because of special circumstances, it will direct the diocesan bishop/eparch to proceed (Article 13, “Procedural Norms” for *Motu proprio Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, AAS, 93, 2001, p. 787). If the case would otherwise be barred by prescription, because sexual abuse of a minor is a grave offense, the bishop/eparch may apply to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for a derogation from the prescription, while indicating relevant grave reasons. For the sake of canonical due process, the accused is to be encouraged to retain the assistance of civil and canonical counsel. When necessary, the diocese/eparchy will supply canonical counsel to a priest. The provisions of CIC, canon 1722, or CCEO, canon 1473, shall be implemented during the pendency of the penal process.

b. If the penalty of dismissal from the clerical state has not been applied (e.g., for reasons of advanced age or infirmity), the offender ought to lead a life of prayer and penance. He will not be permitted to celebrate Mass publicly or to administer the sacraments. He is to be instructed not to wear clerical garb, or to present himself publicly as a priest.

9. At all times, the diocesan bishop/eparch has the executive power of governance, within the parameters of the universal law of the Church, through an administrative act, to remove an offending cleric from office, to remove or restrict his faculties, and to limit his exercise of priestly ministry.⁶ Because 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) and is a crime in all civil jurisdictions in the United States, for the sake of the common good and observing the provisions of canon law, the diocesan bishop/eparch shall exercise this power of governance to ensure that

any priest or deacon who has committed even one act of sexual abuse of a minor as described above shall not continue in active ministry.⁷

10. The priest or deacon may at any time request a dispensation from the obligations of the clerical state. In exceptional cases, the bishop/eparch may request of the Holy Father the dismissal of the priest or deacon from the clerical state *ex officio*, even without the consent of the priest or deacon.

11. The diocese/eparchy will comply with all applicable civil laws with respect to the reporting of allegations of sexual abuse of minors to civil authorities and will cooperate in their investigation. In every instance, the diocese/eparchy will advise and support a person’s right to make a report to public authorities.⁸

12. No priest or deacon who has committed an act of sexual abuse of a minor may be transferred for a ministerial assignment in another diocese/eparchy. Every bishop/eparch who receives a priest or deacon from outside his jurisdiction will obtain the necessary information regarding any past act of sexual abuse of a minor by the priest or deacon in question.

Before such a diocesan/eparchial priest or deacon can be transferred for residence to another diocese/eparchy, his diocesan/eparchial bishop shall forward, in a confidential manner, to the bishop of the proposed place of residence any and all information concerning any act of sexual abuse of a minor and any other information indicating that he has been or may be a danger to children or young people.

In the case of the assignment for residence of such a clerical member of an institute or a society into a local community within a diocese/eparchy, the major superior shall inform the diocesan/eparchial bishop and share with him in a manner respecting the limitations of confidentiality found in canon and civil law all information concerning any act of sexual abuse of a minor and any other information indicating that he has been or may be a danger to children or young people so that the bishop/eparch can make an informed judgment that suitable safeguards are in place for the protection of children and young people. This will be done with due recognition of the legitimate authority of the bishop/eparch; of the provisions of CIC, canon 678 (CCEO, canons 415 §1 and 554 §2), and of CIC, canon 679; and of the autonomy of the religious life (CIC, c. 586).

13. Care will always be taken to protect the rights of all parties involved, particularly those of the person claiming to have been sexually abused and of the person against whom the charge has been made. When

an accusation has been shown to be unfounded, every step possible will be taken to restore the good name of the person falsely accused.

NOTES

- 1 These Norms constitute particular law for the dioceses, eparchies, clerical religious institutes, and societies of apostolic life of the United States with respect to all priests and deacons in the ecclesiastical ministry of the Church in the United States. When a major superior of a clerical religious institute or society of apostolic life applies and interprets them for the internal life and governance of the institute or society, he has the obligation to do so according to the universal law of the Church and the proper law of the institute or society.
- 2 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*, 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.
- 3 Due regard must be given to the proper legislative authority of each Eastern Catholic Church.
- 4 Article 19 *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela states*, “With due regard for the right of the Ordinary to impose from the outset of the preliminary investigation those measures which are established in can. 1722 of the Code of Canon Law, or in can. 1473 of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches, the respective presiding judge may, at the request of the Promoter of Justice, exercise the same power under the same conditions determined in the canons themselves.”
- 5 Removal from ministry is required whether or not the cleric is diagnosed by qualified experts as a pedophile or as suffering from a related sexual disorder that requires professional treatment. With regard to the use of the phrase “ecclesiastical ministry,” by clerical members of institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life, the provisions of canons 678 and 738 also apply, with due regard for canons 586 and 732.
- 6 Cf. CIC, cc. 35-58, 149, 157, 187-189, 192-195, 277 §3, 381 §1, 383, 391, 1348, and 1740-1747. Cf. also CCEO, cc. 1510 §1 and 2, 1°-2°, 1511, 1512 §§1-2, 1513 §§2-3 and 5, 1514-1516, 1517 §1, 1518, 1519 §2, 1520 §§1-3, 1521, 1522 §1, 1523-1526, 940, 946, 967-971, 974-977, 374, 178, 192 §§1-3, 193 §2, 191, and 1389-1396.
- 7 The diocesan bishop/eparch may exercise his executive power of governance to take one or more of the following administrative actions (CIC, cc. 381, 129ff.; CCEO, cc. 178, 979ff.):

- a. He may request that the accused freely resign from any currently held ecclesiastical office (CIC, cc. 187-189; CCEO, cc. 967-971).
- b. Should the accused decline to resign and should the diocesan bishop/eparch judge the accused to be truly not suitable (CIC, c. 149 §1; CCEO, c. 940) at this time for holding an office previously freely conferred (CIC, c. 157), then he may remove that person from office observing the required canonical procedures (CIC, cc. 192-195, 1740-1747; CCEO, cc. 974-977, 1389-1396).
- c. For a cleric who holds no office in the diocese/eparchy, any previously delegated faculties may be administratively removed (CIC, cc. 391 §1 and 142 §1; CCEO, cc. 191 §1 and 992 §1), while any *de iure* faculties may be removed or restricted by the competent authority as provided in law (e.g., CIC, c. 764; CCEO, c. 610 §§2-3).
- d. The diocesan bishop/eparch may also determine that circumstances surrounding a particular case constitute the just and reasonable cause for a priest to celebrate the Eucharist with no member of the faithful present (CIC, c. 906). The bishop may forbid the priest to celebrate the Eucharist publicly and to administer the sacraments, for the good of the Church and for his own good.
- e. Depending on the gravity of the case, the diocesan bishop/eparch may also dispense (CIC, cc. 85-88; CCEO, cc. 1536 §1-1538) the cleric from the obligation of wearing clerical attire (CIC, c. 284; CCEO, c. 387) and may urge that he not do so, for the good of the Church and for his own good.

These administrative actions shall be taken in writing and by means of decrees (CIC, cc. 47-58; CCEO, cc. 1510 §2, 1°-2°, 1511, 1513 §§2-3 and 5, 1514, 1517 §1, 1518, 1519 §2, 1520) so that the cleric affected is afforded the opportunity of recourse against them in accord with canon law (CIC, cc. 1734ff.; CCEO, cc. 999ff.).

- 8 The necessary observance of the canonical norms internal to the Church is not intended in any way to hinder the course of any civil action that may be operative. At the same time, the Church reaffirms her right to enact legislation binding on all her members concerning the ecclesiastical dimensions of the delict of sexual abuse of minors.

A STATEMENT OF EPISCOPAL COMMITMENT

We bishops pledge again to respond to the demands of the *Charter* in a way that manifests our accountability to God, to God's people, and to one another. Individually and together, we acknowledge mistakes in the past when some bishops transferred, from one assignment to another, priests who abused minors. We recognize our roles in the suffering this has caused, and we continue to ask forgiveness for it.

Without at all diminishing the importance of broader accountability, this statement focuses on the accountability which flows from our episcopal communion and fraternal solidarity, a moral responsibility we have with and for each other.

While bishops are ordained primarily for their diocese or eparchy, we are called as well to protect the unity and to promote the common discipline of the whole Church (CIC, c. 392; CCEO, c. 201). Participating in the college of bishops, each bishop is responsible to act in a manner that reflects both effective and affective collegiality.

Respecting the legitimate rights of bishops who are directly accountable to the Holy See, in a spirit of collegiality and fraternity we renew our commitment to the following:

1. Within each of our provinces, we will assist each other to interpret correctly and implement the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, always respecting Church law and striving to reflect the Gospel.

2. We will apply the requirements of the *Charter* also to ourselves, respecting always Church law as it applies to bishops. Therefore, if a bishop is accused of the sexual abuse of a minor, the accused bishop is obliged to inform the Apostolic Nuncio. If another bishop becomes aware of the sexual abuse of a minor by another bishop or of an allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor by a bishop, he too is obliged to inform the Apostolic Nuncio and comply with applicable civil laws.

3. In cases of financial demands for settlements involving allegations of any sexual misconduct by a bishop, he, or any of us who become aware of it, is obliged to inform the Apostolic Nuncio.

4. Within each of our provinces, as an expression of collegiality, including fraternal support, fraternal challenge and fraternal correction, we will engage in ongoing mutual reflection upon our commitment to holiness of life and upon the exercise of our episcopal ministry.

In making this statement, we firmly uphold the dignity of every human being and renew our commitment to live and promote the chastity required of all followers of Christ and especially of deacons, priests and bishops.

This Statement of Episcopal Commitment will be reviewed by the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations upon the next review of the *Charter*.



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

APPENDIX B

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR DIOCESES AND EPARCHIES

This document contains the questions asked and the sum of responses for the survey of U.S. 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 to reduce the incidence of sexual abuse within the Church.

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

THE CURRENT AUDIT YEAR COVERS JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021.

NOTE: An allegation is defined as one victim alleging an act or acts of abuse by one alleged perpetrator.

PREVIOUS AUDIT YEAR ALLEGATIONS RESOLVED DURING THIS AUDIT YEAR

As of the end of this audit year (June 30, 2021), please designate the status of all allegations first received prior to July 1, 2020 that were reported on last year’s survey as unresolved (that is those categorized as “unable to be proven” or “investigation ongoing”):

- 519 A1. Credible. *(See accompanying glossary for the definitions of these terms.)*
- 123 A2. Unsubstantiated.
- 9 A3. Obviously false.
- 456 A4. Unable to be proven
- 775 A5. Investigation ongoing.

Section Total = 1,882

NEW ALLEGATIONS FIRST RECEIVED DURING THIS AUDIT YEAR (JULY 1, 2020-JUNE 30, 2021)

- 2,442 1. The total number of new allegations (including all allegations that are credible, unsubstantiated, obviously false, unable to be proven, temporarily not being investigated due to current civil investigations or litigation, or still being actively investigated) your diocese or eparchy received between **July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021**. *(See accompanying glossary for the definition of these terms.)*
- 1,993 2. Of the number reported in item 1, the total number of those that did not meet the threshold for a credible allegation or are still in the process of being investigated to determine their credibility. Of the number reported in item 2, the total number of allegations received between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 that did not meet the threshold for a credible allegation because they were:
 - 53 2a. Unsubstantiated. *(See accompanying glossary for the definitions of these terms.)*
 - 11 2b. Obviously false.
 - 398 2c. Unable to be proven.
 - 1,566 2d. Investigation ongoing (as of June 30, 2021).

Note: The sum of items 2a to 2d should equal item 2.
- 449 3. Of the number reported in item 1, the total number of new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor reported against a priest or deacon in your diocese or eparchy **between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021**. (Do not include clergy that are members of religious institutes as they will be reported by their religious institutes.) *(See accompanying glossary for the definition of a credible allegation.) (Note: The sum of items 2 and 3 should be equal to item 1.)*

ALL ALLEGATIONS DEEMED CREDIBLE DURING THIS AUDIT YEAR (JULY 1, 2020-JUNE 30, 2021)

- 968 4. Total number of allegations (new and recently resolved) deemed as credible by your diocese or eparchy during the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. *(Item 4 = Item A1 + Item 3.)*
- 1 4a. Of the allegations reported in item 4, the number that involved child pornography solely.
- 967 4b. Total number of allegations your diocese or eparchy is reporting that did not involve child pornography solely. *(Item 4 minus item 4a.)*

Of the number reported in item 4, the number that were first reported to the diocese or eparchy by:
(Choose only one category for each allegation. The sum of items 5-11 should equal item 4.)

- 293 5. Victim.
- 35 6. Family member of the victim.
- 3 7. Friend of the victim.
- 525 8. Attorney.
- 9 9. Law enforcement.
- 4 10. Bishop or official from another diocese.
- 99 11. Other: _____.

Of the number reported in item 4b, the number of alleged victims that are:
(Choose only one category for each allegation. The sum of items 12-14 should equal item 4b.)

- 731 12. Male.
- 156 13. Female.
- 81 14. Gender unknown.

Of the number reported in item 4b, the number of alleged victims in each age category when the alleged abuse began:
(Choose only one category for each allegation. The sum of items 15-18 should equal item 4b.)

- 251 15. 0-9.
- 443 16. 10-14.
- 124 17. 15-17.
- 149 18. Age unknown.

Of the number reported in item 4b, the number alleged to have begun in: *(Choose only one category for each allegation. The sum of items 19-35 should equal item 4b.)*

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 31 | 19. 1954 or earlier. | 14 | 28. 1995-1999. |
| 45 | 20. 1955-1959. | 11 | 29. 2000-2004. |
| 94 | 21. 1960-1964. | 5 | 30. 2005-2009. |
| 120 | 22. 1965-1969. | 10 | 31. 2010-2014. |
| 162 | 23. 1970-1974. | 4 | 32. 2015-2019. |
| 141 | 24. 1975-1979. | 4 | 33. 2020. |
| 133 | 25. 1980-1984. | 4 | 34. 2021. |
| 67 | 26. 1985-1989. | 90 | 35. Time period unknown. |
| 32 | 27. 1990-1994. | | |

ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

NOTE: Include any alleged 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.

- 569 36. Total number of priests or deacons against whom credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor have been reported or recorded between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. (Note: Include all clergy related to the allegations reported in item 4.)
- 339 37. Of the total number in item 36, the number that have had one or more previous credible allegations reported against them in previous surveys.

Of the total number in item 36, 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 38-44 should equal item 36.)

- 429 38. Diocesan priests ordained for this diocese or eparchy.
- 23 39. Diocesan priests incardinated later in this diocese or eparchy.
- 7 40. Extern diocesan priests from another U.S. diocese serving in this diocese or eparchy.
- 8 41. Extern diocesan priests from a diocese outside the United States serving in this diocese or eparchy.
- 5 42. Permanent deacons.
- 73 43. Temporarily not classified due to current civil investigation or litigation (as of June 30, 2021).
- 24 44. Other: _____.

Of the total number in item 36, the number that: (Choose only one category for each alleged perpetrator. The sum of items 44-50 should equal item 36.)

- 450 45. Are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing.
- 25 46. Have been permanently removed or retired from ministry between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 based on allegations of abuse.
- 2 47. Have been returned to ministry between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.
- 13 48. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2021).
- 4 49. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2021).
- 148 50. Are temporarily not classified due to current civil investigation or litigation (as of June 30, 2021).

COSTS INCURRED DURING THE CURRENT AUDIT YEAR

- \$33,942,134 51. 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 your diocese or eparchy between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 for **payments as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor** (notwithstanding the year in which the allegation was received):

- \$118,516,493 52. All settlements paid to victims.
- \$13,103,280 53. Other payments to victims (e.g., for therapy or other expenses, if separate from settlements).
- \$9,972,414 54. Payments for support for offenders (including living expenses, legal expenses, therapy, etc.).
- \$45,597,100 55. Payments for attorneys' fees.
- \$6,930,931 56. Other allegation-related costs: _____.

- AVG=16.1% 57. Approximate percentage of the amount in items 52-56 that was covered by your diocese's or eparchy's insurance.

If your diocese or eparchy made a financial settlement to victims in the past audit year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021), which of the following monetary sources/changes did your diocese or eparchy use for those settlements: *(Please check all that apply. If no financial settlements were made, please skip these questions.)*

- 9 58. Sale of property.
- 7 59. Restructuring of debt.
- 25 60. Insurance pay-outs.
- 3 61. Bankruptcy filing.
- 2 62. Elimination of programs or services.
- 4 63. Staff reductions.
- 43 64. Other _____.

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

Name of person completing this form: _____

Title of person completing this form: _____

Arch/Diocese or Eparchy: _____

Phone/email: _____

Thank you for completing this survey.
Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA)
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*Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
Annual Survey of Allegations and Costs*

APPENDIX C

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES

This document contains the questions asked and the sum of responses for the survey of U.S. religious institutes.

This questionnaire is designed to survey religious institutes, societies of apostolic life, or the separate provinces thereof 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 to reduce the incidence of sexual abuse within the Church.

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

THE CURRENT AUDIT YEAR COVERS JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021.

NOTE: An allegation is defined as one victim alleging an act or acts of abuse by one alleged perpetrator.

PREVIOUS AUDIT YEAR ALLEGATIONS RESOLVED DURING THIS AUDIT YEAR

As of the end of this audit year (June 30, 2021), please designate the status of all allegations first received prior to July 1, 2020 that were reported on last year's survey as unresolved (that is those categorized as "unable to be proven" or "investigation ongoing"):

SUM

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|--|
| 67 | A1. Credible. | <i>(See accompanying glossary for the definitions of these terms.)</i> |
| 43 | A2. Unsubstantiated. | |
| 10 | A3. Obviously false. | |
| 29 | A4. Unable to be proven | |
| 199 | A5. Investigation ongoing. | |

Section Total = 348

NEW ALLEGATIONS FIRST RECEIVED DURING THIS AUDIT YEAR (JULY 1, 2020-JUNE 30, 2021)

622 1. The total number of new allegations (including all allegations that are credible, unsubstantiated, obviously false, unable to be proven, temporarily not being investigated due to current civil investigations or litigation, or still being actively investigated) your religious institute received between **July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021**. *(See accompanying glossary for the definition of these terms.)*

437 2. Of the number reported in item 1, the total number of those that did not meet the threshold for a credible allegation or are still in the process of being investigated to determine their credibility. Of the number reported in item 2, the total number of allegations received between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 that did not meet the threshold for a credible allegation because they were:

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 18 | 2a. Unsubstantiated. | <i>(See accompanying glossary for the definitions of these terms.)</i> |
| 8 | 2b. Obviously false. | |
| 32 | 2c. Unable to be proven. | |
| 379 | 2d. Investigation ongoing (as of June 30, 2021). | |

Note: The sum of items 2a to 2d should equal item 2.

185 3. Of the number reported in item 1, the total number of new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor reported against a priest, deacon, or perpetually professed brother in your religious institute **between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021**. (Only include members of your religious institute who are clergy or perpetually professed brothers.) *(See accompanying glossary for the definition of a credible allegation.) (Note: The sum of items 2 and 3 should be equal to item 1.)*

ALL ALLEGATIONS DEEMED CREDIBLE DURING THIS AUDIT YEAR (JULY 1, 2020-JUNE 30, 2021)

- 252 4. Total number of allegations (new and recently resolved) deemed as credible by your religious institute during the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. *(Item 4 = Item A1 + Item 3.)*
- 0 4a. Of the allegations reported in item 4, the number that involved child pornography solely.
- 252 4b. Total number of allegations your religious institute is reporting that did not involve child pornography solely. *(Item 4 minus item 4a.)*

Of the number reported in item 4, the number that were first reported to the religious institute by:
(Choose only one category for each allegation. The sum of items 5-11 should equal item 4.)

- 45 5. Victim.
- 4 6. Family member of the victim.
- 1 7. Friend of the victim.
- 181 8. Attorney.
- 0 9. Law enforcement.
- 16 10. Bishop or official from a diocese.
- 5 11. Other: _____.

Of the number reported in item 4b, the number of alleged victims that are:
(Choose only one category for each allegation. The sum of items 12-14 should equal item 4b.)

- 212 12. Male.
- 36 13. Female.
- 4 14. Gender unknown.

Of the number reported in item 4b, the number of alleged victims in each age category when the alleged abuse began:
(Choose only one category for each allegation. The sum of items 15-18 should equal item 4b.)

- 31 15. 0-9.
- 106 16. 10-14.
- 92 17. 15-17.
- 23 18. Age unknown.

Of the number reported in item 4b, the number alleged to have begun in: *(Choose only one category for each allegation. The sum of items 19-35 should equal item 4b.)*

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 19 19. 1954 or earlier. | 1 28. 1995-1999. |
| 11 20. 1955-1959. | 2 29. 2000-2004. |
| 22 21. 1960-1964. | 1 30. 2005-2009. |
| 34 22. 1965-1969. | 0 31. 2010-2014. |
| 43 23. 1970-1974. | 2 32. 2015-2019. |
| 51 24. 1975-1979. | 1 33. 2020. |
| 25 25. 1980-1984. | 0 34. 2021. |
| 17 26. 1985-1989. | 17 35. Time period unknown. |
| 6 27. 1990-1994. | |

ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

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

- 242 36. Total number of clergy or perpetually professed brothers against whom credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor have been reported or recorded between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. *(Note: Include all clergy and brothers related to the allegations reported in item 4.)*
- 77 37. Of the total number in item 36, the number that have had one or more previous credible allegations reported against them in previous surveys.

Of the total number in item 36, 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 38-44 should equal item 36.)*

Priests Brothers

- 60 38a. 103 38b. Member of this province assigned within the United States.
- 1 39a. 1 39b. Member of this province assigned outside the United States.
- 7 40a. 10 40b. Formerly of this province but no longer a member of the religious institute.
- 0 41a. 1 41b. Member of another U.S. province but serving in this province of the religious institute.
- 0 42a. 2 42b. Member of a non-U.S. based province but serving in this province of the religious institute.
- 2 43. Deacon member of your religious institute.
- 55 44. Temporarily unable to be classified due to current civil investigation or litigation (as of June 30, 2021).

Of the total number in item 36, the number that:

(Choose only one category for each alleged perpetrator. The sum of items 45-50 should equal item 36.)

- 153 45. Are deceased, already removed from ministry, already laicized, or missing.
- 14 46. Have been permanently removed or retired from ministry between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 based on allegations of abuse.
- 0 47. Have been returned to ministry between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 based on the resolution of allegations of abuse.
- 4 48. Remain temporarily removed from ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2021).
- 0 49. Remain in active ministry pending investigation of allegations (as of June 30, 2021).
- 71 50. Are temporarily not classified due to current civil investigation or litigation (as of June 30, 2021)

Of the number reported in item 36, the number that:

(See accompanying glossary for the definition of these terms.)

- 26 51. Are diagnosed situational offenders.
- 16 52. Are diagnosed preferential offenders.
- 159 53. Not known or have not yet received a diagnosis.
- (The sum of items 51-53 should equal item 36.)*

- 5 54. *Of the total number of diagnosed situational offenders in item 51, the number who have reoffended.*
- 10 55. *Of the total number of diagnosed preferential offenders in item 52, the number who have reoffended.*
- 26 56. *Of the total number of undiagnosed offenders in item 53, the number who have reoffended.*

COSTS INCURRED DURING THE CURRENT AUDIT YEAR

\$4,642,639 57. 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 your religious institute between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 for **payments as the result of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor** (notwithstanding the year in which the allegation was received):

\$15,059,613 58. All settlements paid to victims.
 \$382,035 59. Other payments to victims (e.g., for therapy or other expenses, if separate from settlements).
 \$4,203,407 60. Payments for support for offenders (including living expenses, legal expenses, therapy, etc.).
 \$8,783,079 61. Payments for attorneys' fees.
 \$1,024,167 62. Other allegation-related costs: _____.

11.6% 63. Approximate percentage of the amount in items 58-62 that was covered by your religious institute's insurance.

If your religious institute, society of apostolic life, or province made a financial settlement to victims in the past audit year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021), which of the following monetary sources/changes was used for those settlements:

(Please check all that apply. If no financial settlements were made, please skip these questions.)

 2 64. Sale of property.
 0 65. Restructuring of debt.
 10 66. Insurance pay-outs.
 0 67. Bankruptcy filing.
 0 68. Elimination of programs or services.
 2 69. Staff reductions.
 29 70. Other _____.

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

Name of person completing this form: _____

Title of person completing this form: _____

Religious Institute/Province: _____

Phone/email: _____

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.