

Annual Update to the Faithful of Southeastern Wisconsin

Regarding the Archdiocesan Response to Sexual Abuse of Minors by Clergy

September 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With another year of service as your archbishop, I have been heartened by the sincere and ongoing work of so many to heal the wounds inflicted by the clergy sexual abuse crisis. Those efforts, along with the previous steps taken on this journey, are detailed in this annual *Accountability Statement*, which has been published since 2002.

The abuse survivors whose trust was shattered deserve our full attention, so the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is committed to fostering a spirit of openness as we address the deeply troubling sins of the past.

Survivors of abuse have shown bravery in bringing their allegations to light. I cannot imagine the torment they endured before taking that painful step. May they be an inspiration to others who are struggling with the healing process and to each of us in our continuing pursuit to ensure something like this never happens again.

While attending to the needs of those who suffered from the terrible criminal acts of a small number of priests, we remain vigilant to our commitment to the prevention of abuse today. In the past year, information about offending priests has been expanded on our website and adults and children have received age-appropriate training through the *Safeguarding All of God's Family* program.

We pray for those who have been harmed and ask the Holy Spirit to continue to guide us in this important ministry of the Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki

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Archbishop of Milwaukee

Outreach to Victims/Survivors

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee's outreach to those who have been affected by clergy sexual abuse is coordinated through the Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response Services Office.

Amy Peterson served as the full-time victim assistance coordinator from fall 2004 until her move to assist the Capuchins with their victim assistance and pastoral outreach program in June 2011. During her years here, she implemented the archdiocesan response to sexual abuse; met with victims/survivors and their families; managed the archdiocesan response services, including developing ongoing training on mandatory reporting responsibilities for clergy and parish/school staff; and provided referral and resource information on a daily basis.

The archdiocese is in the process of filling this position. In the interim, personnel from Catholic Charities are available to provide support.

For more information about the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response Services Office, please visit this link – www.archmil.org/offices/sexual-abuse-prevention.htm

Safeguarding All of God's Family Program

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has implemented the *Safeguarding All of God's Family* program to protect children and all family members from sexual abuse and related dangers.

The Safeguarding All of God's Family program increases awareness and knowledge of child sexual abuse to prevent any child from suffering this trauma while at church or school, within family or at the hands of any adult. All adults who work with children are required to participate in this program and become familiar with the warning signs of abuse, learn strategies for handling suspicions of abuse, and identify ways to respond to abuse.

Archdiocesan central office staff and parish and school staff, Saint Francis de Sales Seminary students and staff, as well as priests and volunteers who regularly interact with minors, participate in a three-hour "Protecting God's Children" Safe Environment Education session. Criminal background checks are also completed for all adults, including priests, bishops, employees and volunteers, who have regular interaction with minors through the Church. The same individuals must read and sign the Code of Ethical Standards for Church Leaders, as well as be aware of their roles regarding Mandatory Reporting. A newsletter with safe environment information is produced and distributed to all parishes and schools in the archdiocese several times a year. Ageappropriate abuse prevention education materials are incorporated into Catholic school and religious education instruction.

Since the inception of the *Safeguarding All* of *God's Family* program, more than 45,000 adults have attended educational sessions and more than 100,000 children have received additional safe environment education in their curriculum.

Patti Loehrer is the archdiocese's full-time coordinator for the *Safeguarding All of God's Family* program. To date, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee has spent almost \$280,000 on the creation and implementation of the *Safeguarding All of God's Family* program.

As part of the archdiocesan response to Sexual Abuse Awareness Month in April 2011, a Mass of Atonement was offered by Archbishop Listecki. This Mass will now be an annual event, offered at different parishes throughout the archdiocese. Also in April, a poster contest was held encouraging school children to use their creativity to express their awareness of keeping everyone safe.

Patti regularly visits parishes and schools to assist them in their safe environment efforts and monitors their compliance with all required safeguards.

For more about the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's *Safeguarding All of God's Family* program, please visit this link – www.archmil.org/offices/safeguarding.htm

Supporting Individuals Who Have Experienced Sexual Abuse by Church Personnel

Believing, supporting and caring for individuals who have suffered sexual abuse by clergy remains an important pastoral concern for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. During the past year when a person contacted the victim assistance coordinator, a variety of resources were offered, including counseling referrals, spiritual direction, access to mediation, therapy support and other services to assist people who had been abused or who had been affected by abuse.

Meeting with Victims/Survivors

Archbishop Listecki invited individuals who have suffered or been affected by sexual abuse by clergy to meet with him and share how the Archdiocese of Milwaukee can effectively address the issue of sexual abuse by clergy or other Church personnel. He has fulfilled his promise to meet with those individuals who wish to do so.

Reporting Abuse

Victims/survivors of clergy sexual abuse can make reports to these organizations/agencies throughout southeastern Wisconsin:

- Civil authorities in the city or county where the abuse occurred.
- One of the various agencies that offer free services to sexual abuse victims/survivors. A comprehensive list of these agencies is available at this link www.archmil.org/offices/sexual-abuseprevention/community-agencies.htm
- The Healing Center, (414) 671-4325.
- The Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response Services Office, (414) 758-2232.

The archdiocese requires all adults working for the Church to obey reporting responsibilities for any suspected physical or sexual abuse of minors, whether or not designated as a mandatory reporter by Wisconsin law.

For all cases involving a clergy member who is still alive, the appropriate county's

district attorney was contacted with information about the report.

Independent Clergy Sexual Abuse Mediation System

Recognizing the need for a process outside the archdiocesan structure to address claims of sexual abuse of a minor by diocesan clergy, an independent, voluntary mediation system was introduced in January 2004. The system was created in collaboration with Eva Soeka, director of Marquette University's internationally acclaimed Center for Dispute Resolution.

The archdiocese reached resolution with close to 190 individuals through the independent mediation system until it had to be suspended because of Chapter 11 reorganization.

National Review of Archdiocesan Compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*

Outside, independent, professional audits – the latest one to be completed in September 2011 – have shown the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to be in full and complete compliance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, adopted by the U.S. Bishops in June 2002.

The compliance audits are coordinated by the USCCB National Review Board and assess how Catholic dioceses throughout the nation perform in their efforts to integrate the *Charter*'s standards into their administration. The auditors are hired by a nationally-recognized, independent agency. The Compliance Audit examines the four main sections of the *Charter*:

- Promoting healing and reconciliation;
- Guaranteeing effective response to allegations of sexual abuse of a minor;
- Ensuring accountability of procedures;
- Protecting the faithful in the future.

While the audit process only requires an onsite visit by auditors every three years, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee has requested a full, on-site visit annually. These audits include onsite visits to various parishes and schools to review their record of compliance.

Distribution of Names and Status Updates of **Priests**

In July 2004, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee published and distributed the names of diocesan priests of the archdiocese who have been (or would be if they were still alive) restricted from all priestly ministry, and may not celebrate the sacraments publicly, or present themselves as priests in any way because of substantiated reports of sexual abuse of a minor. This information remains available at this link: http://www.archmil.org/offices/sexual-abuse-prevention/restricted-priests.htm It is updated as necessary.

In July 2011, the list of names of restricted diocesan priests of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee was expanded to include photos, as well as dates and locations of service: http://www.archmil.org/reorg/bardate/ ClergyOffenders.htm

In accordance with the canonical norms that have been established, the allegations against any living priest are sent to the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Canonical (Church) Trials

Priests against whom there are substantiated reports of sexual abuse of a minor may be subject to various canonical processes, including a canonical trial.

It is the responsibility of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Metropolitan Tribunal to conduct canonical trials when it is believed that, under canon law, crimes may have been committed. These are church trials, as opposed to civil trials that may carry jail terms or other penalties. A full investigation is conducted to determine if a canonical trial is warranted. A canonical trial for sexual abuse of a minor is authorized by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

A canonical trial consists of testimony by parties and witnesses, as well as deliberation by the ecclesiastical (Church) judges. A decision may result in canonical penalties against the clergy member. The decision and penalties of the diocesan court are sent to and can be appealed to the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

More information about canonical trials is available at this link – http://www.archmil.org/Resources/
TrialsAccordingtotheCanonLawoftheRomanCat
holicChurch.htm

Priests Who Are Members of Religious Orders

Religious order priests are subject to the same standards upheld in *The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. When a religious order priest requests faculties to minister publicly within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, that priest's superior is required to provide a statement verifying his suitability for ministry including assurance that he has not been credibly accused of abuse of a minor, has undergone a criminal background check and has completed safe environment training.

Religious orders function separately from the archdiocese and are under the supervision and authority of their own leadership. There is a distinction between the jurisdiction of the diocesan bishop over diocesan clergy as opposed to religious order clergy.

Clergy, diocesan and religious, have an obligation of obedience to the pope and their own Ordinary. For the diocesan priest, the Ordinary is the diocesan bishop; for the religious order priest, the Ordinary is their major superior. Thus, religious order priests are the responsibility of the religious orders.

National Review Board

The National Review Board was established in 2002 to collaborate with the USCCB in preventing sexual abuse of minors in the United States by persons in the service of the Church.

Diane Knight, retired executive director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, was appointed to the 12-member Board in 2007 and served as its chairwoman until June 2011. She also serves on the archdiocesan Community Advisory Board, which advises the archbishop of Milwaukee and the archdiocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator. She also serves on the Code of Ethics Task Force of Catholic Charities USA.

Diocesan Review Board

The Diocesan Review Board, which oversees the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's response to clergy sexual abuse, was formed by Archbishop Dolan and has met regularly since January 2003.

Members are:

- Rev. James Connell, priest, Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- *Margaret Farrow*, chairwoman, former Wisconsin lieutenant governor
- Dr. Anthony Kuchan, licensed psychologist and retired Marquette University assistant professor of psychology
- Dr. Charles Lodl, clinical psychologist
- Stephanie Russell, executive director, mission and identity, Marquette University (on leave)
- *Dr. Mary Meehan*, president of Alverno College
- Deacon Stanley Lowe, parish director, St. John the Evangelist and St. Alphonsus parishes, civil attorney

The Board's mandate is to:

- Assess allegations of sexual abuse of minors:
- Provide counsel regarding suitability for ministry;
- Review diocesan policies for dealing with sexual abuse allegations to ensure they are in compliance with the promises made in the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People; and
- Offer counsel on all aspects of sexual abuse cases, whether retrospectively or prospectively.

In June 2011, Archbishop Listecki publicly expressed his commitment to the Review Board and the faithful of the archdiocese, stating:

"When I was installed as the Archbishop of Milwaukee in 2010, I affirmed the work of the Review Board and met with its members to give them my assurances and full support of their important work. I reaffirm that commitment to each of you so you can have trust in my personal commitment to comply with the expectations of the *Charter*.

Every allegation where a living priest or deacon is accused of inappropriate behavior with minors is referred to the Diocesan Review Board for their review. Their job is to make recommendations to me, based upon the individual facts of each case, on actions to be taken regarding the substance of the accusation and the suitability of the priest or deacon for ministry.

All the information that is given to me or anyone else who receives information on my behalf about an allegation is given to the Diocesan Review Board as part of its deliberations.

While Diocesan Review Boards serve in an advisory capacity to the diocesan bishop, I take very seriously any recommendation they make to me. If there were ever a situation where I believed that I could not follow their advice, I would meet with the board, provide my reasoning to them, and invite their further input."

Community Advisory Board

The Community Advisory Board reviews and improves the response of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to those who have experienced or been affected by sexual abuse by Church personnel.

Members of the Board include victims/survivors of clergy sexual abuse, family members of victims/survivors, victim advocates, professional psychologists and therapists who work with sexual abuse victims and/or perpetrators, and members of the archdiocesan staff.

Community Advisory Board members are:

- Cathy Arney
- Maryann Clesceri
- Kathy Coffey-Guenther, Ph.D
- Barbara Anne Cusack
- Very Reverend Patrick Heppe
- Most Reverend Donald J. Hying
- Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki
- Sr. Mary Howard Johnstone, O.P.

- Rev. Charles Keefe
- Marie Kingsbury
- Diane Knight
- Patti Loehrer
- Dr. Anthony Meyer
- Jill Maria Murdy
- Kathy Lyn Walter

Financial Impact of Clergy Sexual Abuse

During the fiscal year from July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011, the net financial impact of sexual abuse cases involving a diocesan clergy member and a minor was \$545,374, after reimbursement from insurance for mediation agreements and attorney fees. This includes \$503,115 for therapy-related and victims/survivors assistance costs, including mediation agreements; \$5,757 for mediator fees for mediation; \$13,587 for expenses related to the audit for compliance with the Dallas Charter; and \$22,915 for general attorney fees and other expenses. The general attorney fees included amounts spent on cases involving litigation and litigation against insurance companies.

Through June 30, 2011, the overall financial impact to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee of the clergy sexual abuse issue involving a diocesan priest and a minor was \$30,110,052.

Gifts to the Catholic Stewardship Appeal or the *Faith In Our Future* capital campaign are not used for settlements with victims/survivors of clergy sexual abuse.

These expenses were paid for by monies accumulated in sale of properties, liquidation of investments, and insurance reimbursements. The annual Catholic Stewardship Appeal funds are used for pastoral ministries that influence the lives of the approximately 633,000 Catholics in southeastern Wisconsin.

Gifts to the *Faith In Our Future* capital campaign belong to the Faith In Our Future Trust, not the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and can only be used for the purposes set forth in the *Faith In Our Future* campaign for Catholic education and faith formation, and for no other purposes.

Conclusion

This report is a reaffirmation of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's public commitment to addressing issues related to clergy sexual abuse. Working together with a sense of openness, truthfulness, responsiveness, and engagement, trust can be restored and maintained and the Church can be strengthened.

We continue to express sorrow and repentance, and to pray for healing for all those who have suffered as a result of this crisis and ask that you continue to pray for the Church of southeastern Wisconsin.