

# **Diocese of Grand Island By-laws of the Diocesan Review Board**

## **Preamble**

Responding to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (Article 2) and the Essential Norms for Diocesan / Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons (Norms 4 and 5), the Bishop of Grand Island has established a Diocesan Review Board.

## **Article One: Purpose**

The Diocesan Review Board is a confidential consultative body to the diocesan bishop regarding the implementation and application of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. (Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, Article 2; Essential Norms, Article 5)

## **Article Two: Functions**

The Functions of the Diocesan Review Board are:

- a. To review particular allegations or cases of child sexual abuse by clergy (both retrospectively and prospectively) and advise the bishop in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse;
- b. To review diocesan policies, practices and procedures for the creation of safe environments, proactive protection of children and prevention of the abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese;
- c. To review results of legal and internal investigations; and
- d. To advise the diocesan bishop in his determination of suitability for ministry.

## **Article Three: Membership**

The Review Board will be Composed of the Following:

- a. The diocesan chancellor and at least eight other persons, of whom at least four are active Catholics.
- b. At least one person who has particular expertise in the treatment of sexual abuse.
- c. At least one a priest, other than the diocesan chancellor, who is an experienced and respected pastor.
- d. A majority of lay persons who are not employed by the diocese.

Each member is appointed by the diocesan bishop for a term of five years. For just cause, the diocesan bishop may rescind the membership of a particular individual.

#### **Article Four: Meetings**

The Diocesan Review Board will have regularly scheduled meetings three times each year and as many special meetings as the diocesan bishop may convene.

The minutes of the meetings are to be properly recorded. Minutes will be recorded and filed by the Vice-Chancellor.

A meeting agenda will be prepared by the Vice-Chancellor at the request of the diocesan bishop or chairperson.

A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. For recommendations regarding allegations of abuse, policy review and/or change, on suitability for ministry, and dismissal of a Board member; a concurrence of not less than a majority of the Board (not just those present) shall be necessary to make a recommendation or take an action. In reference to other matters, a majority of those present shall prevail.

The Diocesan Review Board may designate subcommittees to address specific areas of work.

#### **Article Five: Officers**

The diocesan bishop will appoint a chairperson and vice-chairperson, who will serve a term of two years in each office. The chairperson will lead the meetings, the vice-chairperson substituting in the absence of the chairperson.