

Annual Report of the Archdiocese of Dubuque  
Regarding the Implementation of the *Policy for the Protection of Minors*  
March 10, 2008

This report covers the period from January 1, 2007, to December 31, 2007.

The *Policy for the Protection of Minors* of the Archdiocese of Dubuque was initially approved and adopted on July 1, 2003. A revision of the *Policy* was approved on March 10, 2006. There were no changes in the *Policy* during 2007. The *Policy* may be found on the Archdiocesan Web site: [www.arch.pvt.k12.ia.us](http://www.arch.pvt.k12.ia.us), along with reports from previous years and other information.

This policy is the local implementation and application of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which was developed and approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002. The current version of the *Charter* was approved in June 2005. The companion piece, *Essential Norms for Diocesan Policies Dealing With Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons*, was developed and revised in the same time frame.

#### Prevention and Education

The Archdiocese continued the implementation of various programs and offerings to ensure that all personnel working in the Church complete the education program, *Virtus*, developed by the National Catholic Risk Retention Group, Inc. This program aims to educate all in recognizing the causes and signs of sexual abuse, the steps to take to protect minors, and the procedures to follow if abuse is suspected or observed. Background checks continue to be made on all personnel listed in Appendix A of the *Policy*.

#### Reports and Instances of Abuse, Settlement of Cases

The procedures for reporting cases of alleged, suspected, or known sexual abuse of a minor committed by any personnel of Archdiocesan entities are described in Section V of the *Policy*. During calendar year 2007, the Archdiocese received claims from ten new individuals. Three of these made their claims through a Victim Assistance Coordinator and seven through attorneys. The time frame for the reported abuse is as follows: one in the 1940s, six in the 1960s, two in the 1970s, and one in the 1980s. Some of these claims are still in a legal process. When the legal procedures are completed, the information will be added to the table on the Archdiocesan Web site according to the established criteria.

On March 24, 2007, the Archdiocese reached agreement with nine individuals who were sexually abused by priests. The Archdiocese agreed to pay \$2.6 million to the law firm which represented the victims. The details of the agreement were released to the media and placed on the Archdiocesan Web site on March 27. The Archdiocese made no other payments to victims or to law firms representing victims in 2007.

#### Archdiocesan Review Board

The Archdiocesan Review Board continued to fulfill its purposes according to the *Policy*. Since the first members were named for five-year terms in August of 2002, there has been some change in membership. The following individuals completed their appointments and are no longer members of the Board: Ms. Christine O'Connell Corken (Dubuque), Ms. Janet Mead (Marshalltown), Sr. Susan O'Connor, R.S.M. (Cedar Rapids), Rev. Msgr. Thomas E. Toale (Temple Hill), and Rev. Msgr. David A. Wheeler (Dubuque). The following individuals were appointed to an additional five-year term: Mr. James Anastasi (Mason City), Ms. Kathy Loch Klein (Dubuque), Dr. Barbara Sullivan Woodward (Dubuque). New members of the Board, appointed to five-year terms, are: Mr. John E. Beckman (Waterloo), Elizabeth Corken Deegan (Cedar Rapids), Sr. Corita Heid, R.S.M. (Mason City), Rev. Jerry F. Kopacek (Waterloo), and Ms. Pam Whitters (Clarion). Other members of the Board who are fulfilling their previous appointments are: Mr. James F. Bradley (Cedar Rapids), Dr. Thomas R. Feld (Marion), Ms. Jeananne Freymann (Dubuque), and Pastor Darrel Gerrietts (Waverly).

This report affords the opportunity to express gratitude to all members of the Board, past and present, for their careful work and dedication to the protection of minors and young people.

### Independent Audit for Compliance

According to the *Charter*, the national Office for Child and Youth Protection of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is to be a resource for dioceses for the implementation of "safe environment" programs and for suggested training and development of diocesan personnel responsible for child and youth protection programs. This office also is charged with producing an annual public report on the progress made in implementing and maintaining the standards of the *Charter*. The report is to be based on an annual audit process. The Archdiocese of Dubuque was audited from September 17 through 20, 2007.

In late October, the Archdiocese received a letter from the auditing firm with the information that the Archdiocese of Dubuque was found to be in compliance with the *Charter*. A copy of the letter can be found on the Archdiocesan Web site.

### Office for the Protection of Children

The Archdiocese continues to have an Office for the Protection of Children, staffed by a lay person with appropriate professional qualifications. Ms. Joyce Connors was the first director of this office, hired in 2005. Upon her retirement in late 2007, she was replaced by Ms. Pam Gehl, who receives secretarial assistance from Ms. Barbara Gleason. With this report, gratitude is expressed to Ms. Connors for her sensitive attention to victims and her assistance to the Board and the Archdiocese.

### Victim Assistance Coordinators

In 2003, the Archdiocese established the position of Victim Assistance Coordinator. The position has been staffed continuously since that date. The current Victim Assistance Coordinators are: Dr. Thomas Anderegg (563-556-1225) and Ms. Joan Hoffmann (866-319-4636). Allegations of abuse may also be made to civil authorities or the Iowa Child Abuse Reporting Line (800-362-2178).

## Assistance to Victims and Their Families

During the calendar year 2007, Archbishop Hanus met with several victims and their families and communicated by letter or telephone with others, striving to listen with patience and compassion to their experiences and concerns. The Archdiocese also provided services (counseling, psychotherapy, spiritual assistance, reading materials) to victims. The Archdiocese paid \$26,699 for therapy for victims in 2007.

## Apology

In connection with the settlement reached in March 2007, the Archbishop issued the following apology:

To those who as minors were sexually abused by priests of the Archdiocese of Dubuque:

I write first of all to you who participated in the recent settlements with the Archdiocese. I also write to your spouses and to the members of your families. In addition, I include all survivors who as minors suffered sexual abuse perpetrated by any Church personnel.

Personally, and insofar as I can speak in the name of the entire Archdiocese, I express my profound sorrow for what you have endured. I apologize for what these priests did to you. What they did was heinous, awful, horrendous, and cries to heaven for vengeance.

For you who shared in the settlement, it is my hope that this support may give you some sense of affirmation, justification, and validation. You may not have been believed in the past. You may have felt alone and abandoned. You may need the help of counseling and therapy.

To your spouses and to other members of your families, I offer an assurance of my sorrow, my prayers, and my apology. Thank you for standing by the member of your family who was abused.

For all of you I pray that the trust you had in God, if it has been weakened or destroyed, may be restored. I hope and pray that trust in a Church which has failed you may not be lost forever. If and when you are ready, we would be blessed by your return.

I stand ready to meet with you if you desire. I want you to know that I encourage all our parishes to include victims and survivors of sexual abuse in their prayers. We must all be compassionate and understanding and supportive.

My appreciation and gratitude extend to you for having the courage to come forward. You help all of us address the suffering which sexual abuse brings. You help us recommit ourselves to the task of making the way safe for all God's children in today's churches, families, and the world.