

# Annual Child Protection Report

## Protecting Innocents

The victimization of children is a very real and present danger in our culture. Glance through any newspaper, watch the nightly news broadcasts or tune in to an evening news magazine show, and you are likely to confront frightening stories of adult predators, anguished communities and shattered young lives. Most shocking in these revelations is that the predator is often one trusted by the family and community: a teacher, coach or even a priest. Scattered in the wake of these events are damaged lives, destroyed trust and families suspicious of anyone who interacts with children. From everything we have discovered in the last decade concerning this problem of child sexual abuse, one might come to doubt the possibility of maintaining safe and nurturing communities where caring adults and children may interact and grow together.

The Diocese of Arlington is committed to maintaining environments within our parishes and schools where children can be safe to grow in grace and wisdom. Through policies established by Arlington Bishop John R. Keating in 1991 and strengthened by Bishop Paul S. Loverde, it is hoped that child sexual abuse can be prevented in any youth activity within the diocese. The Policy for the Protection of Children and Young People and the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct is a comprehensive and systematic program designed to protect children. The programs that are required throughout the diocese are fully in accord with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The child protection policies and programs of the diocese were established to protect children by following five principles.

## Know the Warning Signs

While child predators can come from any socioeconomic class or educational level, they have one thing in common. The common factor is a specific group of behaviors known as “grooming.” Grooming behaviors are behaviors that attempt to form a bond of dependence between the perpetrator and the victim. The purpose of these behaviors is to make the child hesitant to reveal the abuse.

- “Physical grooming” consists of behaviors that desensitize the child to the touch of the perpetrator and confuse the child about boundary violations. “Physical grooming” often includes tickling and wrestling.
- “Emotional grooming” includes behaviors that seek to make the child dependent on the abuser. “Emotional grooming” might include gift giving or allowing the child to participate in activities that parents would not allow, such as the sharing of alcohol or drugs or exposure to pornography.
- “Community grooming” consists of behaviors that seek to gain trust from the community that surrounds the child. The perpetrator seeks to become trusted by the community and depended upon to assist in child activities. This allows the perpetrator greater access to children. If the abuse should later come to light, “community grooming” lends to deniability as members of the community come to the defense of the abuser.

To recognize these grooming behaviors and to take immediate and prudent actions when they are

recognized requires that all persons who work with children be trained to recognize the dynamics of grooming behaviors. All employees of the diocese, parishes and schools, and all volunteers who work with children receive child safety training through the “Protecting God’s Children” program. This four-hour training seminar is considered one of the most effective training programs in the country and is used in over 60 dioceses. It also includes continuing training for professionals and annual refresher training for all volunteers who work with children.

In the current reporting period, over 2,000 adult employees and volunteers received “Protecting God’s Children” training. Over 16,000 employees and volunteers have received “Protecting God’s Children” training in the diocese since its introduction, and now serve as watchful sentinels ensuring that children’s interactions with adults are appropriate and safe.

## Control Access

No one has a “right” to volunteer to work with children. In fact, there are some people who must be kept away from children. To maintain the safety of children, each and every person who interacts with them must be thoroughly vetted and approved. Every employee and all volunteers working with children must complete criminal background checks. These checks include state and national criminal record searches and a search of the Central Registry of the Virginia Department of Social Services. In the current reporting period, over 2,000 employees and volunteers underwent background checks; over 17,000 diocesan employees and volunteers of the diocese have completed these checks since August 2004.

A formal application process for anyone working with children is vital. As a part of this formal application process, references are checked to ensure that past behaviors are not overlooked. A formal interview is also required so that the Church’s commitment to the safety of children can be clearly expressed and the programs in place to protect children can be explained.

## Monitor Programs

All programs sponsored by the Church must be reviewed and approved by principals and pastors. This review process ensures that those adults involved have completed all training and background checks and are approved to interact with children. This process also helps ensure that sufficient adult supervision is being used to safeguard children. Monitoring also involves the direct supervisor interacting with all programs. This includes visiting classes, observing programs to ensure that all policies are being followed, and securing or monitoring areas where children could be isolated.

## Being Aware

Studies have indicated that more than 90 percent of children who have been sexually abused do not reveal that abuse has occurred. Recovery from sexual abuse is largely influenced by the type of abuse and the length of time over which the abuse occurred. It is acutely important that young people advise their parent or another safe adult as soon as they become uncomfortable or frightened. Being aware of what is going on in young people’s lives, while primarily the role of parents, is also a role shared by other trusted adults. Preventing abuse is the role of adults, and

child programs that might shift the burden of responsibility to children should be avoided. However, programs that encourage children to confide in parents and other trusted adults can be effective in revealing abuse or potentially abusive situations, and can limit contact with predators. Research indicates that children who had been abused who had been previously trained in safety programs reported their abuse at four times the rate of children who had not received training. The Diocese of Arlington provides such training in “Formation in Christian Chastity,” which is a part of all religious education programs and Catholic schools’ curricula. Since the program was begun in 2005, over 65,000 children have received training. This training can be reviewed at [www.arlingtondiocese.org](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org).

## Communicating Concerns

Once inappropriate behaviors have been noted in the actions of some adults, this issue must be directly addressed. Employees and volunteers are trained to address their concerns to the individuals involved in interactions with children that seem to be inappropriate. They are guided in these discussions by the Code of Conduct, which is required to be received and signed by all persons within the diocese who interact with children. These are clear guidelines of what are considered appropriate and inappropriate behaviors when interacting with children. They are also trained to address these behaviors with supervisors if such behaviors continue. If child abuse is suspected, employees and all volunteers will report such suspicions to Child Protective Services for the appropriate city or county.

All personnel of the diocese are mandatory reporters under diocesan policy and have an obligation to report suspicions of child abuse. Once suspicions are reported to civil authorities, personnel also report to Church officials to ensure immediate actions are taken to maintain the safety of the children under our care. These five principles — knowing the warning signs, controlling access, monitoring programs, being aware and communicating our concerns — constitute a comprehensive approach to keeping children safe from any person who might seek to harm them. Maintaining these programs and improving them is the goal of the Office of Child Protection and Safety for the Diocese of Arlington. With the help of the thousands of volunteers and employees of the diocese who work with young people, we can prevent this danger in the lives of our children.

## Report of the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

*Report covers the audit period  
Oct. 20, 2005 to June 30, 2007*

The Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Arlington is Patricia Mudd, M.S.W., A.C.S.W., appointed in June 2004. This appointment is in compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which directs each diocese to have a person to coordinate outreach to victims, including pastoral care for anyone who reports having been sexually abused as a minor by a priest or diocesan employee.

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People suggests that each diocese provide the following outreach to victims/survivors of sexual abuse:

# Annual Child Protection Report

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 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 will include provision of counseling, spiritual assistance, support groups, and other social services agreed upon by the victim and the diocese.

In order to provide this assistance to victims/survivors, the Victim Assistance Coordinator has developed a list of therapists with skill in working with victims/survivors of sexual abuse. They speak several languages and work in various parts of our diocese. They include social workers, counselors and psychiatrists, both in private practice and at Catholic Charities. In addition, a group of diocesan priests and religious have agreed to provide spiritual assistance to victims/survivors. The diocese has provided some specialized training for those providing spiritual assistance.

During the Audit Period from Oct. 10, 2005, to June 30, 2007, the Victim Assistance Coordinator received calls from 18 victims/survivors, previously unknown to the diocese, who made allegations of sexual abuse by clergy or religious order priests and requested help from the Victim Assistance office. Of this number, there were 6 victims/survivors who made accusations against 4 priests of the Diocese of Arlington. An additional 12 victims/survivors made allegations of abuse by priests or religious from other dioceses or religious orders. Our victim assistance coordinator assisted these victims/survivors to report the abuse to the appropriate diocese or religious order. Since the persons were now living in the Diocese of Arlington, appropriate referrals were made to clinicians and spiritual directors in this diocese.

Of the Diocese of Arlington priests accused during the past audit period, one priest was no longer active at the time of the allegation; one priest is deceased and had been previously identified by other victims/survivors; and two priests have been placed on administrative leave. In these cases, the abuse or misconduct was alleged to have occurred in the 1960s, 1970s and 1990s.

In addition, Bishop Loverde has encouraged the Victim Assistance Coordinator to provide assistance to victims/survivors of abuse by family members, acquaintances, violence on the streets and inappropriate adult relationships. Sixty-three of these victims/survivors have requested referrals for counseling and spiritual assistance. Further, 15 victims/survivors who requested assistance prior to the beginning of this audit period in October 2005 continue to receive assistance and participate in the various services offered by the Diocese of Arlington.

## Masses and Prayer Services for Healing for Victims/Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

In addition to the provision of referrals for counseling and spiritual assistance, the Diocese of Arlington has celebrated Masses and prayer services for healing for victims/survivors of sexual abuse, initiated a drop-in support group and hosted support

group evenings with Bishop Loverde at the Dominican Retreat. During this audit period, Bishop Loverde celebrated 8 Masses for this intention at various locations around the diocese. A total of 19 Masses have been celebrated in the Diocese of Arlington from June 2004 to June 2007 to pray for healing for victims/survivors of sexual abuse, with an estimated 1,250 people in attendance. In addition, Father Mark Mealey, O.S.F.S., vicar general, has celebrated six prayer services for healing for victims/survivors during the present audit period and a total of eight prayer services since April 2005. Part of the prayer service has been victim testimony. Three victims/survivors have taken turns sharing their struggles and efforts to heal at the prayer services. An estimated 155 people have attended the prayer services since their inception in 2005. Both the Masses and prayer services are followed by a reception where victims/survivors have the opportunity to speak with Bishop Loverde, Father Mealey, Father Specht and Patricia Mudd.

## Monthly Support Group

The Diocese of Arlington began a monthly drop-in support group in September 2006. This group meets for 10 months out of the year, taking a two-month break in the summer. For the year covered by this audit, the support group was held at St. Ann's in Arlington and Our Lady of Good Counsel in Vienna. Beginning in September 2007, the support group was moved to Catholic Charities Children's Services office in Burke, Virginia which will be a more central location for victims/survivors.

## Support Group Meetings at Dominican Retreat

During this audit period, Bishop Loverde has invited victims/survivors and their spouse or a support person to five evenings at Dominican Retreat and Our Lady of Good Counsel in Vienna. The evenings consist of dinner, a discussion and prayer service. Victims/survivors share their struggles with the pain of abuse and efforts to heal and be reconciled with the Church. These have been very powerful meetings with Bishop and the other diocesan staff listening to their struggles and praying with them for their healing. A great deal has been learned about the impact of sexual abuse on the lives of our victims/survivors as well as their struggles to maintain a relationship with God.

## Spiritual Assistance to Victims/Survivors of Sexual Abuse

In the Diocese of Arlington, there is a group of diocesan and religious order priests who provide spiritual assistance to victims/survivors of sexual abuse. In an effort to support them, two educational programs have been hosted by the Diocese of Arlington, one in February 2005 with a presentation by Msgr. Stephen Rossetti, and a second during this present audit period on March 6, 2007. The speakers at last year's presentation were Dr. Art Behrmann, a psychiatrist, and Ms. Kathleen Cauley, a licensed professional counselor. Dr. Behrmann spoke on "Working with the Abused Individual" and Ms. Cauley spoke on the "Stance of the Coach or Clergy; Ways that People Manage Self When Anxiety and Reactivity are High in the Family or Work System and Ways that People Manage Self When Anxiety and Reactivity are Low in the Family or Work System." During the

afternoon session, two of our survivors shared their struggles with abuse and efforts to heal with the group.

In 2006, Patricia Mudd began to meet two or three times a year with a small group of victims/survivors to seek their suggestions for our program in the Diocese of Arlington. Last year, this group made a number of suggestions for additions to the program that have been worked into a three-year plan. This includes continuation of the Masses to pray for healing for victims/survivors of abuse with receptions to follow; the prayer services including victim testimony and a reception; the drop-in support group and the support group meeting with Bishop Loverde, Father Mealey, Father Specht and Patricia Mudd at Dominican Retreat. The victims/survivors recommended and helped to implement a Resource Center on the diocesan web site, [www.arlingtondiocese.org](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org), with books on spiritual assistance that they found helpful in their journeys. They have also recommended that the phone number of the victim assistance coordinator be in a prominent place in each parish and in the parish bulletins. At the recent meeting, there was discussion of additional training programs about child sexual abuse for clergy and diocesan employees.

The Diocese of Arlington has both a Review Board and an Advisory Board to make recommendations to Bishop Loverde. The Review Board addresses suitability in ministry. The Advisory Board assists in suggesting programs of ministry such as Virtus, educational programs for children and background checks. Part of the job of the Victim Assistance Coordinator is to meet with both of these groups and keep them informed of our efforts to help victims/survivors in the diocese. This is a group of very talented people with valuable expertise regarding child sexual abuse. The Diocese of Arlington is very fortunate to have their knowledge and expertise available to us and we are most grateful for their help.

Efforts to comply with implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People vary. I would like to personally thank Bishop Loverde, Father Mark Mealey, O.S.F.S., vicar general, and Father Terry Specht, director of the Office of Child Protection. The Diocese of Arlington is one of the few dioceses consistently celebrating Masses and prayer services for healing for victims/survivors of sexual abuse as well as hosting dinners, discussions and prayer services at which Bishop Loverde, Father Mealey and Father Specht take time to listen to the pain and struggles of our victims/survivors. I have had many victims thank me for the additional efforts being made by this diocese and I want to publicly acknowledge the work of Bishop Loverde, Father Mealey, Father Specht and the priests providing spiritual assistance to encourage and support our victims/survivors.

Please note that the schedule of upcoming events for the Victim Assistance Ministry is listed as a part of this report. I invite victims/survivors of sexual abuse, their family members and support persons, as well as members of the diocesan community to join us for the Masses and prayer services. The three support group meetings at Dominican Retreat each year are for victims/survivors and their spouse or a support person. The monthly drop-in support group held at Children's Services of Catholic Charities is reserved for victims/survivors. Please remember that both Bishop Loverde and Father Mealey have offered to personally meet with victims/survivors and have opened the Victim Assistance Ministry to

# Annual Child Protection Report

victim/survivors of childhood sexual abuse who were abused by clergy and religious as well those who were the victims of incest, acquaintance abuse or violence on the streets. **I invite victims/survivors to call me at 703/841-2530 to report allegations of abuse, for referrals for counseling and spiritual assistance and for information about the Victim Assistance Ministry in the Diocese of Arlington.**

## Annual Report of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington's Child Protection Advisory Board

This is our fourth annual report. The Catholic Diocese of Arlington's Child Protection Advisory Board was formed at the direction of Arlington Bishop Paul S. Loverde in late summer of 2003 as a unique effort to assist the diocese in organizing a proper approach to the protection of children in the Arlington Diocese. Specifically, our board serves in an advisory role to the diocesan bishop in the formulation of child sexual abuse policies and procedures. The diocesan effort is directed pursuant to the Catholic Diocese of Arlington Policy on the Protection of Children/Young People and Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and/or Child Abuse established in 1991; and in conformity with the word and spirit of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and the Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons, approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at its November 2002 general meeting.

The formation of the Advisory Board is not required by the Charter. It is a unique effort by Bishop Loverde to bring the voice, vision and experience of qualified, independent, professional members of the Catholic community to support the development of proper background checks and awareness training programs designed to protect children from abuse, sexual exploitation and neglect. Board members are appointed for five-year terms and may be re-appointed. The function of the Advisory Board is to look at how the diocese responds to an allegation and what services are offered to victims and survivors, as well as clergy who are guilty of sexual abuse. We also reviewed the diocesan sexual misconduct policy and assisted the diocese in creating the "safe environment" for children that the Charter envisioned. In addition, the Advisory Board promotes healing for victims and survivors and recommends speakers and educational programs for employees and volunteers of the diocese. In order to accomplish this, the Advisory Board reviewed existing programs and established new programs specifically for this purpose. For more information on the Review and Advisory Boards, please see the Catholic Diocese of Arlington Policy on the Protection of Children and Young People and Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and/or Child Abuse on the Child Protection Pages of the diocesan website, [www.arlingtondiocese.org](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org).

## Audits

Since its conception, it has been the goal of this Advisory Board that the child protection program and programs for victims and survivors in the Diocese of Arlington are among the most effective in our national Catholic community. The second audit, conducted by the National Review Board, published

in the spring of 2005 found the Diocese of Arlington was in full compliance with all aspects of the Charter. We were particularly pleased that the third audit, published early in 2006, affirmatively demonstrated an elevated level of attention to internal control issues and included establishing procedures for validating the existing programs. We were very encouraged by the 2006 audit results. In 2007, the Diocese was again found to be in compliance with all aspects of the Charter to Protect Children. In 2006 and continuing through the present the Office of Child Protection has put in place an internal audit program encompassing all activities within the diocese. This program assists parishes and schools in implementing effective and thorough procedures within these local communities. Verified compliance levels were not consistent but have allowed focused follow up on efforts to parishes and schools that need more accurate systems of tracking volunteers and compliance requirements. We continue to urge Bishop Loverde and other diocesan leaders to maintain transparent accountability. It is the Advisory Board's belief that we still serve as a model diocese in the actual implementation of the Charter; however compliance verification is an ongoing requirement.

## Key Program Elements

The key elements in supporting the Charter continue to be a vigorous background check program to help control access to children, training to increase awareness and a Code of Conduct to clearly distinguish inappropriate behavior. It allows all of us to work off the same page with the same understanding of what is expected, what is accepted and, most importantly, what will cause concern. It is a clear, concise guide for those who work with children. The Code of Conduct, training and background checks also make it difficult for those who intend to harm children to continue behaviors that are integral to abuse.

## Report of Allegations

As acknowledged in the Advisory Board's report last year, the Arlington Diocese has not been and will not be immune to threats from abusers within our diocesan family. However, efforts by the diocese and parish leadership continue to demonstrate a robust, proactive effort to prevent the abuse of our most precious assets — our children.

The Advisory Board has encouraged an open and supportive outreach to victims/survivors of sexual abuse and has monitored the diocese's victim assistance efforts by receiving periodic reports from the victim assistance coordinator. Please see the previous page for the Report of the Victim Assistance Coordinator.

## Victim Assistance and Support Group

The Board is especially encouraged by the efforts of Bishop Loverde in his support of the Victim Assistance Coordinator who provides assistance to victims/survivors of abuse by family members, acquaintances, violence on the streets and inappropriate adult relationships. In addition to the provision of referrals for counseling and spiritual assistance, the Diocese of Arlington continues to celebrate Masses and prayer services to pray for healing for victims/survivors of sexual abuse. Our Diocese also initiated a drop in support group and hosted evenings with Bishop Loverde at Dominican

Retreat. The Diocese of Arlington continues with a monthly drop-in support group which started in September 2006. For more information on victim assistance provided, referrals and spiritual assistance, please see the previous page for the Report of the Victim Assistance Coordinator.

The Diocese of Arlington is one of the few dioceses celebrating Masses and prayer services for healing for victims/survivors of sexual abuse as well as hosting dinners, discussions and prayer services where Bishop Loverde, Father Mealey and Father Specht take time to listen to the pain and struggles of our victims.

## Conclusion

The original Advisory Board members were appointed to the board between August and November 2003, with five-year appointments. The current Advisory Board members are: Jim Byrne, Esq., chairman; Mila Tecala, L.C.S.W., vice chairperson; Father Dennis Kleinmann; Richard Perry, M.D., secretary; Patricia Dalton, Ph.D.; and Jim McGuire, FBI Supervising Special Agent (Retired). All were re-appointed to additional three year terms. Bishop Loverde appointed Dr. John Dillon in August 2006 to fill an additional position on the Advisory Board. And, in December 2006, Bishop Loverde appointed Teresa Hartnett to the Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board would like to again commend the outstanding efforts and achievements of Father Terry Specht, director of the diocesan Child Protection and Safety program, Patricia Mudd, A.C.S.W., victim assistance coordinator for the diocese. We would also like to especially commend Bishop Loverde for his leadership and personal dedication to these serious issues. It continues to be our privilege to provide counsel to the Bishop to ensure that our diocese is in full compliance with all aspects of the Charter and that its child protection program and programs for victims and survivors are among the most effective in our national Catholic community.

*Very respectfully submitted,*  
James M. Byrne, Esq., Chairman  
Mila R. Tecala, LCSW, Vice Chairperson  
Richard Perry, M.D. Secretary  
Patricia Dalton, Ph.D.  
James McGuire  
Fr. Dennis Kleinmann  
John Dillon, M.D.  
Ms. Teresa Hartnett

## Victim Survivor Testimonial

Pat Mudd, the victim assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Arlington, asked me if I would be willing to share my experience as a victim of child sexual abuse by a member of the clergy. Because I have a difficult time saying "no" to someone who has been so helpful to me, I agreed.

When I was nine years old I was sexually abused by a priest I did not know, for reasons which I will never understand. It was a secret I kept from my family, and successfully hid from myself, for many years.

I spent my twenties rejecting God, His Church and all things good. It was my decade of death, and I made the most of it. My thirties were spent pregnant, raising children, and returning to the Church. My desire for baptism for my babies