



Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection

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Spotlight Resources

Spotlight, a movie on the *Boston Globe* articles on child sexual abuse in the Church, debuted at the Venice Film Festival in September. It is set for a limited U.S. release Nov. 6, followed by a nationwide release Nov. 20. The drama from Open Roads Films is directed and co-written by Tom McCarthy and features several notable actors and actresses: Michael Keaton, Rachel McAdams, Liev Schreiber, Mark Ruffalo, Stanley Tucci and John Slattery.

In our experience, Catholics and others will take the movie as proof of what is happening **today**, not what happened in the past. Do not let past events discourage you. This is an opportunity to raise the awareness of all that has been done to prevent child sexual abuse in the Church. There is much good news to share.

General Thoughts:

1. Acknowledge the reality of the sexual abuse scandal and the changes the Church has made in response
2. Acknowledge the role victims/survivors and journalists played in bringing this issue forward for action
3. Be open and transparent about any abuse in the diocese
4. Make sincere apologies to victims/survivors and families
5. Demonstrate the lessons learned; refer to Annual Reports, Nature and Scope and Causes and Context study
6. Remain vigilant; this is a reminder we cannot afford to become complacent
7. Use this as a reminder that the Church teaches that all human life is precious and is to be protected at all levels

Specifically:

The Church has done many things since the sexual abuse scandal first broke.

1. Approved *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* which includes:
 - Pastoral Care for victims (Article 1)
 - Policies and procedures, review boards (Article 2)
 - Prohibition of confidentiality agreements (Article 3)
 - Require to report allegations to public authorities (Article 4)
 - Zero tolerance of sexual abuse (Article 5)
 - Codes of Conduct (Article 6)
 - Open and Transparent Communications about abuse allegations (Article 7)
 - Training adults to create safe environments (Article 12)
 - Training children to recognize grooming behavior and to report it (Article 12)
 - Background evaluations on clergy, adults working with children (Article 13)

- Prohibition of transfers of clergy who have committed an act of sexual abuse against a minor (Article 14)
- Ongoing formation of clergy (Article 17)

Locally:

1. Meet with Diocesan Communications to plan a response
2. Let the faithful know the Good News
3. Acknowledge your participation in the audit and your compliance
4. Prepare speaking points for homilies by bishop or pastors
5. Those abused by priests may experience the news of the movie as a reminder of traumatic events and have a negative reaction:
 - Prior to November 1, publish information on how to report abuse to church.
 - Publish name of VAC and how they can be reached in every church bulletin for several weeks.
 - Publish names of those clergy removed because of an established act of child sexual abuse
 - Publish name and phone number of local civil authorities
6. Remind faithful of what the diocese is doing to address clergy sexual abuse:
 - a. If necessary, removed priests who offended
 - b. Ongoing support to victims and families
 - c. Training programs; how many have been trained, when the next session is
 - d. Background checks; how many have been done and what the process is
 - e. Diocesan policies and Codes of Conduct that pertain to the safety of children
7. Use Child Abuse Prevention Month materials in October
8. According to government sources, 1 out of 4 girls and 1 out of 6 boys are abused before their 18th birthday. That means up to 25% of the people sitting in the pews on any given Sunday have suffered abuse. These people may also be reminded of traumatic events in their lives by the movie. Providing support to all abuse victims is an act of charity and love we are called to.

1. Words to those Harmed by Abuse

The movie, *Spotlight*, is likely to remind you of the pain and suffering you have endured at the hands of someone you had every right to trust, a member of the Catholic priesthood. Our hearts ache and we bishops express great sorrow and profound regret for what you have endured. We apologize for the grave harm that has been inflicted on you. Words alone cannot express our sorrow, shame and disappointment. So, it is our prayer and hope that through our actions you will find the healing you so richly deserve.

Over the past years the Church has worked towards both healing and preventing abuse. Our endeavors may be seen in the twelve years of Annual Reports based on the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and independent audits.

The Church strives to put the child in the center of the room when making decision about children, and she will not be finished with this issue until child sexual abuse is no longer a part of society or our churches.

2. Words Reaffirming our Commitment to the *Charter*

In 2002, the crime and sin of child sexual abuse was brought out in the open for all to see. In bringing light to this crisis, the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* was approved. A nationwide network of victim assistance and safe environment training was created to implement the requirements of the *Charter*. Individually and together we acknowledge mistakes of the past. We acknowledge our responsibility and role in the suffering this has caused and we continue to ask forgiveness.

Twelve years later we remain committed to the principles of that *Charter* and we ask for your continued help, support and prayers as we: promote healing and reconciliation with victims/survivors of sexual abuse, respond effectively to allegations of sexual abuse, become accountable for our procedures, and protect the faithful in the future.

We humbly invite anyone who may have experienced abuse to please come forward. And if anyone is currently being abused, please contact the police.

3. What the Church is doing now

It has been twelve years since the *Charter for the Protection of Children* was approved in Dallas. The *Charter* is a comprehensive set of procedures established by the USCCB in June 2002 for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. It also includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability, and prevention of future acts of abuse. The *Charter* directs action in all the following matters:

- Creating a safe environment for children and young people;
- Healing and reconciliation of victims and survivors;
- Making prompt and effective response to allegations;
- Cooperating with civil authorities;
- Disciplining offenders;

Since 2003 an Annual Report has been published on the progress made in implementing the procedures of the *Charter*. Those reports, based on annual independent audits, tell us progress has been made. Over 17,000 people abused by a cleric have come forward. Over 5,800 clerics have been identified and removed from ministry. Thousands of people have received pastoral care in hopes they can find healing. Roughly 99% of adults working or volunteering in our parishes and schools are trained and have had a background check. Of the millions of children in Catholic schools or religious education, 4.4 million of them are trained to recognize abuse and how to tell someone.

Child sexual abuse is a scourge on society. Figures show that 25% of woman and 16% of children are victimized by the time they are adults. Sadly, the Church did not recognize the possibility it could be a part of our communities as well. But now we know and the Church will keep up its efforts to prevent child sexual abuse in all areas of society.

Virtus Statement in Response to *Spotlight*

"Since the publication of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* in 2002, the Catholic Church in the United States has been a leader in its efforts to protect children and youth.

Through safe environment programs, well more than 2.5 million people active in the church – clergy, vowed religious, lay ministers, teachers, coaches, administrators, volunteers and parishioners – have been trained to recognize and respond to signs of inappropriate behavior, thus preventing abuse. Programs like these give us the tools we need to protect children and combat abuse, equipping the Church to remain a powerful force for good.

Within the past decade, new reporting guidelines and other mandates established by the Church are setting a standard of compassionate, pastoral care for victims and of zero tolerance for offenders.

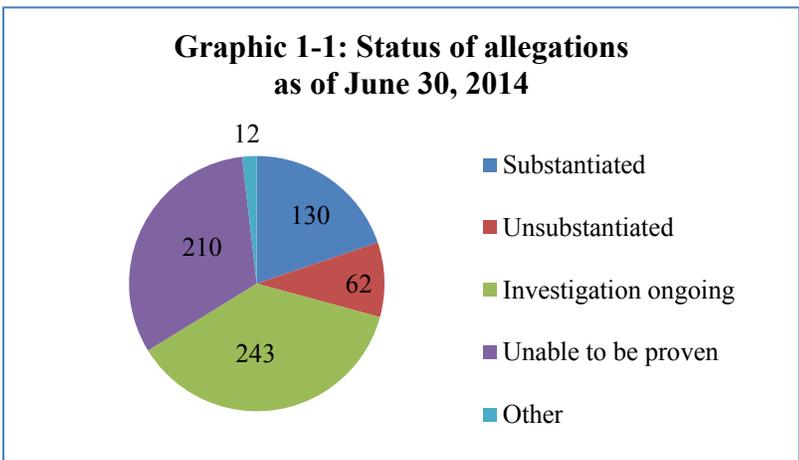
We acknowledge the role of the *Boston Globe* reporters in bringing this issue forward for necessary action, and we continue to pray for the victims of abuse and their families. All life is precious. As such, we must all remain vigilant and strive to embody the teachings of the Church and the example of Jesus."

2014 Audit Statistics

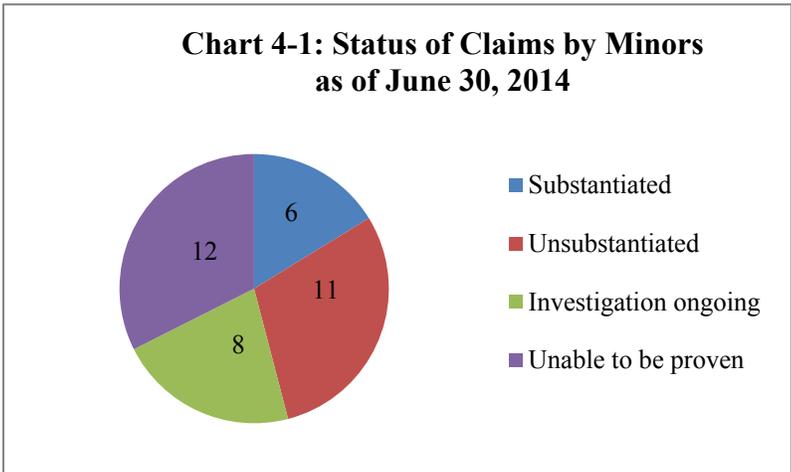
Audits completed: Full: 59 (24 with parishes) **Data Collection:** 129 **Refused:** 7

Outreach to Victims: 268 new for this year; 1,595 continuing from other years

Allegations: 657
Victims: 620



Minors: 37
Unable to be Proven: 12
Substantiated: 6
Unsubstantiated allegations: 11
Minor: 18 Male/16 Female/3 Unknown
International: 14



Non-compliant issues:

- Article 2 DRB meeting regularly
 - The Eparchy of St. Nicholas

- Refused to be audited: Diocese of Lincoln, Eparchy of Newton, Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg, Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance, Eparchy of St. Maron, Eparchy of Stamford, Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle

Training:

Priests	2014	2013	2012
Total priests	35,470	36,131	38,199
Total priests trained	35,319	35,914	38,006
Percent trained	99.6%	99.4%	99.5%
Deacons	2014	2013	2012
Total deacons	16,164	16,245	15,796
Total deacons trained	16,089	16,129	15,680
Percent trained	99.5%	99.3%	99.3%
Candidates for Ordination	2014	2013	2012
Total candidates	6,602	6,458	6,372
Total candidates trained	6,503	6,360	6,232
Percent trained	98.5%	98.5%	97.8%
Volunteers	2014	2013	2012
Total volunteers	1,971,201	1,936,983	1,920,001
Total volunteers trained	1,931,872	1,902,143	1,876,558
Percent trained	98.0%	98.2%	97.7%
Children trained	2014	2013	2012
Total children	4,828,615	4,910,240	4,993,243
Total children trained	4,484,609	4,645,700	4,684,192
Percent trained	92.9%	94.6%	93.8%

Background checks:

Priests	2014	2013	2012
Dioceses/eparchies participating	188	191	189
Total priests	35,470	36,131	38,199
Total priests background checked	35,308	35,970	38,045
Percent checked	99.5%	99.6%	99.6%
Deacons	2014	2013	2012
Total deacons	16,164	16,245	15,796
Total deacons background checked	16,006	16,199	15,695
Percent checked	99.0%	99.7%	99.4%
Candidates for Ordination	2014	2013	2012
Total candidates	6,602	6,458	6,372
Total candidates background checked	6,568	6,428	6,320
Percent checked	99.5%	99.5%	99.2%
Educators	2014	2013	2012
Total educators	161,669	168,782	168,067
Total educators background checked	160,273	168,013	164,935
Percent checked	99.1%	99.5%	98.1%
Other Employees	2014	2013	2012
Total employees	256,668	257,222	258,380
Total employees background checked	251,189	253,587	250,092
Percent checked	97.9%	98.6%	96.8%
Volunteers	2014	2013	2012
Total volunteers	1,971,201	1,936,983	1,920,001
Total volunteers background checked	1,931,612	1,898,136	1,861,160
Percent checked	98.0%	98.0%	96.9%

2014 CARA Annual Survey statistics

<i>Nature & Scope*</i>	10,667		4,392	<i>*Claims were not vetted for credibility</i>
	CARA Victims	CARA Minor Victims	CARA Accused Priests	Deceased, already removed, already laicized
2004	1083	22	756	552
2005	777	9	532	418
2006	710	17	448	319
2007	689	5	491	374
2008	796	13	518	417
2009	513	6	346	244
2010	501	10	405	309
2011	588	*23	461	341
2012	463	12	373	281
2013	457	10	352	260
2014	330	2	245	186
Totals	6,907	106	4,927	3,420

CHILD PROTECTION EFFORTS	
2004	\$20,199,409
2005	\$20,054,984
2006	\$27,001,731
2007	\$22,153,145
2008	\$24,558,498
2009	\$22,223,022
2010	\$22,545,999
2011	\$32,725,511
2012	\$26,583,087
2013	\$41,721,675
2014	\$31,667,740
Total	\$291,434,801

* Number includes both 2010-2011 victims

74% of accused already removed; 19 newly removed 34 permanently removed from allegation in past years

13 returned to ministry 16 still pending investigation

Financial Effects:						
	Settlements	Therapy for Victims	Support for Offenders	Attorneys' Fees	Other costs	GRAND TOTAL
2004	\$106,241,809	\$7,406,336	\$1,869,330	\$36,251,445	\$6,033,891	\$157,802,811
2005	\$399,037,456	\$8,404,197	\$13,669,138	\$41,251,640	\$4,571,041	\$466,933,472
2006	\$277,213,420	\$10,645,739	\$32,268,143	\$75,155,216	\$3,315,176	\$398,597,694
2007	\$526,226,283	\$7,935,438	\$15,445,974	\$60,467,614	\$5,089,380	\$615,164,689
2008	\$374,408,554	\$7,907,123	\$14,226,108	\$35,428,951	\$4,172,461	\$436,143,197
2009	\$63,575,843	\$7,290,853	\$12,526,953	\$32,996,611	\$3,697,736	\$120,087,996
2010	\$88,737,073	\$6,966,920	\$11,774,423	\$38,740,379	\$3,405,385	\$149,624,180
2011	\$73,681,782	\$6,946,985	\$11,946,009	\$41,392,036	\$10,084,904	\$144,051,716
2012	\$68,302,318	\$7,902,410	\$14,736,328	\$38,445,383	\$3,719,372	\$133,105,811
2013	\$67,190,165	\$6,654,101	\$13,379,000	\$33,413,838	\$2,728,173	\$123,365,277
2014	\$62,938,073	\$7,747,097	\$15,403,047	\$28,774,518	\$4,216,912	\$119,079,647
TOTALS	\$2,107,552,776	\$85,807,199	\$157,244,453	\$462,317,631	\$51,034,431	\$2,863,956,490