

Did You Know...

1. Many of the 195 diocese and eparchies participate in [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#). They use this month as an opportunity to highlight the many activities the diocese/eparchy is doing to prevent child sexual abuse.

2. The [Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People](#) was established by the USCCB in June 2002. It is a comprehensive set of procedures for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. It is revised continually to reflect the ongoing commitment of the bishops.

3. The [Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People](#) includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability, and prevention of future acts of abuse.

4. The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People begins with an apology from the bishops. *"Since 2002, the Church in the United States*

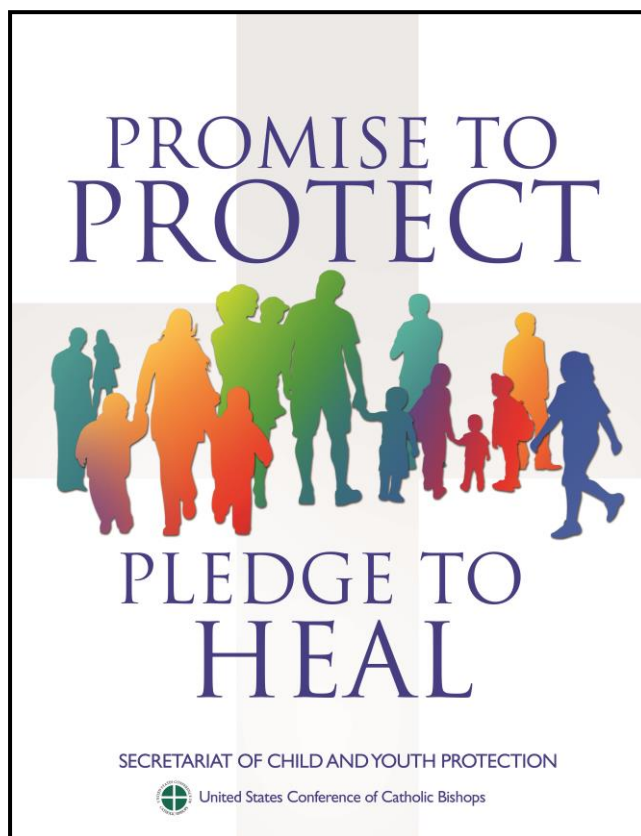
has experienced a crisis without precedent in our times. The sexual abuse of children and young people by some deacons, priests, and bishops, and the ways in which these crimes and sins were addressed, have caused enormous pain, anger, and confusion. As bishops, we have acknowledged our mistakes and our roles in that suffering, and we apologize and take responsibility again for too often failing victims and the Catholic people in the past. From the depths of our hearts, we bishops express great sorrow and profound regret for what the Catholic people have endured." For more information, please see: Page 3 of the Charter [Booklet](#).

5. The [Charter](#) directs action in all the following matters:

- Healing and reconciliation of victims and survivors,
- Making prompt and effective response to allegations,
- Cooperating with civil authorities,
- Disciplining offenders,
- Creating a safe environment for children and young people,
- And providing for means of accountability for the future to ensure the problem continues to be effectively dealt with through the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and the National Review Board.

6. The Charter calls for [annual audits](#) of dioceses/eparchies to ascertain compliance with the [Charter](#) by the bishop and his diocese/eparchy. Annual Audits have been conducted since 2003. Of the 195 dioceses/eparchies, 191 participated in the 2013 audit. Results of the 2013 audits have been published and a copy will be sent to the Holy See.

7. [Safe Environment training](#) is taking place in all audited dioceses/eparchies of the country. Over 2 million parish employees and volunteers, and 4.6 million children have been trained to recognize the



behavior of offenders and what to do about it.

8. Safe Environment training was also provided to 167,953 educators, 251,000 other employees, 35,914 priests, 16,129 deacons, and 6,360 candidates for ordination. These people were also trained to recognize the behaviors of offenders and what to do about it.

9. [Background evaluations](#) have been conducted on over 2 million parish volunteers and Church personnel who have contact with children.

10. Additionally 168,013 educators, 253,587 other employees, 35,970 priests, 16,199 deacons and 6,428 candidates for ordination have had their backgrounds evaluated.

11. All audited dioceses/eparchies have [Codes of Conduct](#) spelling out what is acceptable behavior. These codes serve to let people know what behaviors are and are not accepted as well as what behavior can be expected.

12. All dioceses/eparchies have [Victim Assistance Coordinators](#), assuring victims that they will be heard. In 2013 dioceses/eparchies provided outreach to 2,183 victim/survivors.



13. Regardless of when the abuse occurred, a cleric against whom there is an established or admitted act of child sexual abuse is permanently removed from the priesthood. There is no statute of limitations for removing a cleric who has sexual abused a minor from public ministry in the Catholic Church. This year 23 priests were removed for past abuse first reported this year.

14. Dioceses/eparchies require intensive background screening as well as psychological testing for those wishing to enter the seminary. [Audit figures](#) for 2013 report out of 6,458 Candidates for Ordination 6,360 have been trained (98.5%) and 6,428 (99.5%) have had a background check

15. Over 4,645,700 children were given the skills to recognize both a grooming process and to tell parents and other trusted adults about such behavior.

16. Again in 2013, no diocese or eparchy entered into confidentiality settlements unless the victim/survivors/survivor requested it and it was specifically noted in the agreement.

17. Dioceses/eparchies report allegations of sexual abuse of a minor to the civil authorities. For more information, please see: Page 11 of the [Charter](#) Booklet.

18. The *Charter* requires that all dioceses/eparchies be open and transparent regarding cases of sexual abuse. Parishes affected by abuse are informed openly, honestly and compassionately of allegations.

19. There is a bishop representative from each episcopal region of the U.S. on the [Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People](#).

20. The [Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection](#) helps dioceses/eparchies/become and maintain compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and to integrate the *Charter* into the diocesan way of life.

21. The [National Review Board](#) is a lay group appointed by the USCCB President to offer its advice on matters of child and youth protection to the Bishops' Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People

22. The Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People has designed orientation sessions to address questions new bishops and eparches may have regarding the *Charter* and the audit process. These meetings are held during the November bishops' meetings. .

23. The Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection develops [resources](#) for use by dioceses/eparchies in their parishes and schools. Many are compilations of information from the audit documents.

24. Bishops and eparches communicate with each other on a regular basis to ensure a cleric who committed an act of sexual abuse is not transferred to another diocese or eparchy. For more information, please see: Page 29 of the [Charter](#) Booklet.

25. To ensure open communication between religious orders and bishops, a representative from the Conference of Major Superiors of Men serves on the Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People. For more information, please see: Page 17, Article 15, of the [Charter](#) Booklet.



26. Recognizing the importance of on-going formation, bishops and eparches are committing time and resources to continued formation programs of chastity, celibacy and human formation for clerics. For more information, please see: Page 17, Article 17, of the [Charter](#) Booklet.

27. Reconciliation among all people, especially those most affected by abuse is part of an on-going diocesan/eparchial outreach activities and efforts. Masses, retreats, prayer groups, healing gardens, evenings with the Bishop are a few [examples](#) of outreach efforts.

28. All dioceses/eparchies have written policies on the sexual abuse of minors by clerics and church personnel. Most policies are available on diocesan websites. Find your diocese [here](#).

29. The Catholic Church has worked hard to protect children. Much has been done but more needs to be done. Until child sexual abuse is no longer a part of society, the Church will [continue](#) its efforts to stop it.