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Director of Child Protection and Safety's Perspective on Securing a Future

The youth of our diocese are the hope of our future. As parents and as a diocesan community, we secure their future by investing in their spiritual and moral formation, education, physical protection and social well-being. In order for them to properly develop into virtuous men and women, we must protect their innocence.

Accordingly, since 1991, the Diocese of Arlington has been fully committed to the prevention of child sexual abuse. Bishop Loverde continues to improve diocesan programs that will safeguard children in every youth activity throughout our diocese. *The Policy for the Protection of Children and Young People and the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct* is our diocese's comprehensive and systematic policy designed to protect children. This policy guides our diocesan programs and is in full accord with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

As you know, all child protection policies and programs are only effective with your cooperation. Your assistance can begin by asking the following five questions:

1. Do you know the "tell" of a predator?

As a community, we have an obligation to protect our youth. Child predators can come from any socioeconomic class or educational level. However,

they all share a common behavior or "tell" known as "grooming", which is a compilation of actions that attempt to form a bond of dependency between the perpetrator and the victim. Grooming falls into three categories: physical, emotional and community grooming.

Recognizing these behaviors and knowing how to respond to problems by taking immediate and prudent action requires that all persons be trained to recognize the dynamics of grooming and other warning signs. All volunteers who work with children, in addition to all parish, school and diocesan employees, receive child-safety training through the VIRTUS program. The initial four-hour *Protecting God's Children* training seminar is considered to be one of the most effective training programs in the country and is used in more than 90 dioceses. It also includes an ongoing annual training component.

2. Do you know who has access to your children?

In addition to the required training, the diocese evaluates every employee and volunteer working with children through criminal background checks. This includes searching state and national criminal records and the Central Registry of the Virginia Department of Social Services. The fact is, no one has a "right" to work or volunteer with children. The diocesan Office for the Protection of Children & Young People is dedicated to ensuring that all employees and volunteers receive a thorough background screening prior to working with our young people.

3. Do you know if the programs at your location are authorized and monitored?

An important factor in maintaining the safety of our young people is ensuring that all programs are reviewed and approved by the pastors and principals. This process includes confirming that all of the appropriate adults receive a full background check and safe-environment training.

In addition, monitoring programs means visiting classes, observing programs to ensure that all policies are being followed and securing or monitoring areas where children could be isolated. Parents should also feel

free to inquire how often or when a program was last reviewed. Monitoring is not the responsibility of just one individual. Rather, it requires the active participation and cooperation of all responsible adults.

4. Do you know what is going on in your young person's life?

Preventing abuse is the role of parents and trusted adults – not the responsibility of our young people. That means parents and caring adults must be an active part of their young person's life. We know that 90 percent of children who have been sexually abused do not disclose the abuse. This shows that communication is key!

Programs that encourage children to confide in parents and other trusted adults may be effective in revealing abuse or potentially abusive situations and may limit contact with predators. Additionally, research indicates that abuse victims who receive chastity or safe-environment training are four times more likely to report the abuse and seek assistance. The diocese provides such training through age-appropriate programs such as *Formation in Christian Chastity* and *You Matter*, which are implemented through each diocesan parish and school.

Did You Know in Fiscal Year 2011 that:

- Over 3,400 adult employees and volunteers received "Protecting God's Children" training.
- Over 33,500 employees and volunteers have received "Protecting God's Children" training in the Diocese since its introduction.
- Over 3,400 employees and volunteers underwent background checks.

5. Do you know how to communicate your concerns?

If you become aware of inappropriate behavior on the part of adults or children, the behavior must be addressed immediately and directly. The diocese trains its employees and volunteers to address those concerns directly to the

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adults involved and also to a supervisor if necessary. All discussions are guided by the *Code of Conduct*, which every employee and volunteer is required to sign prior to ministry or employment.

Additionally, all diocesan personnel are considered “mandatory reporters” under diocesan policy and have an obligation to report suspicions or knowledge of child abuse. After reporting 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 simple questions are a start in understanding how we may better protect our youth. Look for additional information and tips on protecting our young people as related to social media, bullying and pornography under the diocesan webpage’s “Child Protection” section.

Upholding the policy and consistently improving the programs are two objectives of the diocesan Office of Child Protection and Safety. With the help of our thousands of volunteers and employees who associate with young people, we can work together to create a safer environment for our youth.

Submitted by Deacon Marques Silva

Bishop’s Child Protection Advisory Board’s 8th Annual Report

For the past eight years, I have been privileged to serve on the Catholic Diocese of Arlington’s Child Protection Advisory Board — a board chartered to advise Bishop Loverde in all matters pertaining to protecting our children from misconduct and abuse. For the past eight years, I have also served as the Board Chairman, and it is in this capacity I present this annual board report.

This past year, original Advisory Board member Jim McGuire, a veteran Marine and retired FBI supervisory special agent, passed away and was replaced by Colonel Jim Gfrerer, Military Officer. Jim Gfrerer, who is both a husband and father, brings a unique military community perspective to the Child Protection Advisory Board. Patricia Dalton, Ph.D., resigned as she is moving out of the area, and Mrs. Kathleen Cotter Cauley, L.M.F.T., has been appointed in her place. We offer our thanks to members

who served so faithfully and welcome the new members of the Advisory Board.

The Board has reviewed and endorses the reports filed by Deacon Silva, Diocesan Director of Child Protection and Safety, and Ms. Patricia Mudd, Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, in this comprehensive Annual Child Protection Report. This year, I would like to take the opportunity to better serve the diocese by delivering an important message on behalf of the Advisory Board. To clarify the role of this Board, it is an advisory board to the bishop and not pursuant to any directive or mandate. It was created voluntarily by the bishop to provide confidential advice regarding how best to protect the children and young people in our diocesan community. The Board also offers advice and suggestions to the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinators.

The Board is comprised of a multi-disciplinary professional group of Catholics — including a medical doctor, licensed clinical social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, attorney, school principal, writer, clergyman, and military officer — and most members have children and grandchildren in the diocese. This mixture of talent and experience has created an open and honest forum wherein challenging issues are thoroughly examined and passionately discussed before advice is presented to Bishop Loverde.

As Bishop Loverde recognizes the importance of consultation with the laity, this was made manifest by establishing the

Our 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. It is also 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*, which were approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) at the November 2002 general meeting

Advisory Board. The Board meets quarterly and is briefed by the Diocesan Director of Child Protection and Safety and the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator. It is during this forum that any questions or concerns from the bishop or the Board are brought forward. The Board has tackled important issues over the years by establishing long term goals and expectations. In fact, the child protection and victim assistance programs have matured over the past eight years such that this diocese is now considered a model for other dioceses.

The first of our three-part child protection program is the Virtus initiative, which provides education and awareness to all diocesan employees and volunteers and helps to shine a light on the dark “grooming” behaviors that child predators use to establish inappropriate relationships between children and adults. Second are background checks, which represent an important tool for identifying and vetting those who have substantial contact with our children. This leads me to the third and most important element of our child protection program: our people. Those who see or suspect impropriety need to act. Regarding this third point, I would like to share the following story:

One of my sons, a high school senior at Bishop O’Connell High School in Arlington, recently completed an interview for his application to receive a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps — Marine Option college scholarship towards becoming a commissioned U.S. Marine Corps Officer. This interview was conducted last fall not long after the first allegations of child sexual abuse and assault surfaced within the Penn State College football community.

Diocesan Advisory Board

Mr. James Byrne, Attorney

Kathleen Cotter Cauley, M. Ed.,
L.M.F.T., Licensed Marriage and
Family Therapist in private practice

Reverend Alexander R. Drummond,
Pastor, St. Catherine of Siena Parish
in Great Falls

Sister Susan Louise Eder, O.S.F.S.,
Principal, Holy Cross Academy
in Fredericksburg

Col. James Gfrerer, Military Officer

Ms. Teresa Hartnett, Publishing
Consultant, The Hartnett Agency

Mila Ruiz Tecala, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.,
D.C.S.W., Center for Grief and Loss

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My son was asked by two unsmiling, battle-hardened Marine officers what he would do if he encountered a situation similar to that which allegedly occurred in the Penn State locker room shower, wherein a respected (and possibly feared) senior official was found taking indecent liberties with a young boy. I am proud to say that my son did not hesitate and answered the question with a succinct response: report what he had observed to law enforcement authorities regardless of the personal consequences and – most importantly – take immediate action to stop the criminal activity occurring before him.

When presented with a follow-up question about whether his actions would include physically intervening to protect the child, my son again responded without hesitation, “yes sir.” The officers were pleased with my son’s responses and almost-but-not-quite smiled upon confirming that the answers were exactly what they expected from a future Marine Corps Officer.

They said: “We want men and women of action. Nothing less. No equivocating. No technicalities. Just leaders who will step forward and do the right thing at any cost.”

The lesson is clear. The third element is you. And our children are counting on you to do the right thing — at any cost.

Submitted by Mr. James M. Byrne, Chairman

Victim Assistance Coordinator’s Annual Report

June 2012 will mark the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* by the Catholic Church in America. Our bishops adopted this document to proactively act upon the numerous allegations of child sexual abuse by clergy and staff members. The Charter calls for us 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.”

I have had the extraordinary opportunity and experience to meet with many victims/survivors, hear their stories and see their faces and tears. I want to personally thank Bishop Paul Loverde, Reverend Mark Mealey, O.S.F.S., Deacon Marques Silva, Ms. Adlin deCardi and the members of

This Year’s Events

- 3 Masses to Pray for Healing for Victims/Survivors
- 3 Prayer Services
- 3 Support Group Meetings
- 1 Annual Retreat

the Review and Advisory Boards for the generosity and dedication they have shown to protect our children and to assist our victims/survivors in this diocese.

Based on Bishop Loverde’s generosity and concern, our office is charged with providing care to victims/survivors of clergy sexual abuse. Additionally, it also provides assistance to victims of incest and violence on the streets.

During the recent audit period, 46 new victims/survivors contacted our office. Among them, four were victims of clergy sexual abuse. Three victims, who alleged clergy sexual abuse, were assisted but not counted by the auditors as they were included in counts by another diocese. No Arlington clergy were named in this year’s audit. The 39 remaining victim/survivors served were victims of incest or violence on the street. Our Victim Assistance Coordinators (VACs) provide referrals for therapy and spiritual assistance as well as invitations to the Support Group and Retreats. They also host Masses and Prayer Services. As of June 30, 2011, we have provided assistance to a total of 347 victims/survivors since 2002.

Masses Offered for Healing for Victims/Survivors: Over the past 10 years, the Diocese of Arlington has made a number of significant efforts to offer programs of healing and reconciliation to our victims/survivors. In June 2004, Bishop Loverde offered the first Mass in our diocese to pray for healing for victims/survivors of sexual abuse. Over the past 8 years, a total of 31 Masses were celebrated with an estimated 2,324 attendees.

Prayer Services to Pray for Healing for Victims/Survivors: In order to reach out to those victims/survivors of abuse who find it difficult to attend Mass, Rev. Mark Mealey, O.S.F.S., Vicar General for Administration, celebrates Prayer Services at many churches in the diocese. To date, 20 Prayer Services with a total of 329 attendees have been held

for the healing of victims/survivors of abuse.

During our services, a victim/survivor shares his or her story which focuses on his or her efforts to heal. Additional information is provided and the service is concluded with a reception. To offer the most assistance to our victim/survivors, our learned best practice is to utilize a combination of competent therapy and spiritual assistance.

Support Groups for Victims/Survivors: Bishop Loverde has hosted 18 Support Group Meetings at the Dominican Retreat in McLean, Va. The meetings begin with prayer and a shared meal between the victims/survivors, Bishop Loverde and diocesan staff.

During the meeting, a reminder is presented concerning the confidentiality agreements all participants have signed. The diocesan staff participates as quiet listeners during the one hour and fifteen minute discussion as our members share thoughts and concerns. The group has agreed not to discuss specific details of the abuse so as not to trigger any of the members. Victims/survivors share their pain from the abuse and their efforts to heal. As the evening draws to a close, Bishop Loverde and Fr. Mealey remind us of God’s love and share their thoughts and feelings about the conversation.

Upcoming Events

Bilingual Mass Offered for Healing
Monday, June 18, 2012, at 7:30 p.m.
All Saints
9610 Center St.
Manassas, Va, 20110
Bishop Paul S. Loverde to preside

For more information on Support Group Evenings, Prayer Services and Masses to be offered this fall, please visit the Victim Assistance section of the website (www.arlingtondiocese.org) in the coming months.

Victim Assistance Coordinators
Ms. Patricia Mudd, 703-841-2537
Ms. Adlin deCardi (Bilingual),
703-841-2530

The Diocese of Arlington is committed to assisting victims/survivors throughout the healing process. For information, visit www.arlingtondiocese.org

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Several of our victims/survivors have expressed that they can hear the Bishop and Father reassuring them of God's love even when not in their presence. Our meeting ends with Evening Prayer. Over the years, 313 people have participated. The evenings permit victims/survivors to support one another and to absorb the concern, support and prayers for healing from Bishop Loverde, Fr. Mealey and the diocesan staff.

Priest Workshops: For the past five years, Victim Assistance has offered a yearly special training for those priests providing spiritual assistance to our victims/survivors. On April 14, 2011, Reverend Lewis Fiorelli, O.S.F.S., gave a presentation on *The Spiritual Guidance of Victims/Survivors of Sexual Abuse, Issues and Helpful Practices* at Our Lady of Good Counsel parish. Eight priests attended. In the afternoon, there was a panel discussion in which one of our victims/survivors participated to provide feedback on our program and opportunities for improvement. The consensus is that we are providing a good combination of therapy and spiritual assistance to our victims/survivors.

Victims/Survivors Planning Group – For the past 5 years, this group has served to share the perspective of victims/survivors with our program staff. The group has helped our victims/survivors to own our program and to give them an avenue to make suggestions to help with their healing.

This past year, Teresa Kettelkamp and Mary Jane Doerr, from the USCCB, have asked our victims/survivors to speak to others from around the world who are now where America was 10 years ago.

On February 8, 2011, Monsignor Gomez and Reverend Hans Kast, Vicar General from Santiago, Chile, met with our Child Protection, Victim Assistance staff and victims/survivors. The victims/survivors' presentation stressed the importance of listening to the victims' stories of abuse and efforts to heal.

Ms. Diane Knight, Chair of the National Review Board of USCCB, met with our victim/survivors to inquire what was helpful to assist in the healing process.

In October 2011 (not in this audit period), Deacon Bernard Nojadera, the new Executive Director of the USCCB Office of Child Protection, invited three victims/survivors, in addition to Deacon Marques, Adlin and I to meet with two European

delegations at the USCCB. Bishop Stephan Ackerman of the Diocese of Trier, Germany, and Bishop Noel Treanor, of Down and Connor, Ireland, each brought a delegation to inquire about ideas to assist the victims of sexual abuse. After our session, at their request, we copied information about our program onto a CD for them to use and reproduce for other dioceses.

I hope and pray that we have provided some real assistance this year toward healing for our victims/survivors, as well as some helpful thoughts to our visitors. We want to thank Bishop Loverde, Fr. Mealey and our Review and Advisory Boards for the time, support and guidance they have shared with us in this ministry. Please

continue to join us in praying for our victims/survivors that they might find healing as well as the way back to their rightful place in the Catholic Church. I have had too many people express a desire to return to the Catholic Church of their childhood. We need to continue to help them get there.

Submitted by Patricia Mudd, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.

Reverend William Dougherty, O.S.F.S., presented on "The Spirituality of the Human Condition" at the yearly retreat held at Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Testimony

Coming Soon: See accompanying testimony from the author's husband at www.catholicherald.com.

My husband of 40 years speaks of that "Lonesome Valley," and I truly understand, having walked that valley myself in the 16 months that I carried the burden of "The Secret" alone. I knew my husband desperately needed help, but The Secret constrained me. Instead, I was on my own to offer love, support, and gentle encouragement to him to seek that help.

I was relieved when he did tell someone else, and I was sure the therapy that ensued would ease the burden. To my dismay, an inappropriate therapy combined with medication seemed to make matters worse. Being a devoted Catholic active in my parish and a daily communicant with a regular prayer life, I became all the more devoted. Prayer would provide what therapy lacked.

My husband tried another therapist (eventually there were four with the current one providing the most help). In between therapist 2 and 3, we found our dear Franciscan nun who started us on the right path. By the time we found her, the extent of the abuse of children by clergy and its cover-up were national news.

This is when my own crisis of faith started to unfold. I was not angry at the abuser, assuming that he was mentally ill; but I was shocked and outraged at those who knowingly failed to stop the abuse and prevent future victims. Now I started to question not only their judgment but also their message. Were any of their teachings true; does God truly exist; if so, why didn't He act?

The bishop who had my husband's abuser residing in his diocese restored my hope that there were good and holy members of the hierarchy who wanted to help victims and protect children. We unfortunately had quite the opposite experience with the bishop of the diocese where the abuser remained incardinated.

Bishop Loverde held the first Mass for the victims of abuse at the Cathedral and we attended, met Pat Mudd; and the rest is history that my husband has outlined. At the end of our private meeting with Bishop Loverde, my husband said "If you think of any way I can help you, I will be happy to do so."

Bishop took my husband up on his offer, and there has been a wonderful transformation that resulted. The Secret has now been told in small gatherings and in a very public way in a Catholic News Service article with name and photo attached. My husband now realizes that the shame is not his; and he has found the good that can come of his experience by helping others.

I attend all of the various programs offered by the Diocese with my husband as his support person and have found them to be as helpful to me personally as they are to him. I have gleaned insights into some of my husband's behaviors in certain situations from the stories of other survivors and their spouses. The reflections offered, the tales of spiritual journey, and the loving support of Bishop and all associated with the Office of Victim Assistance have nurtured my faltering faith. My faith in the Church and hope in at least some of the hierarchy has been restored—only time will tell if complete trust will ever follow.