INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

In his Feb. 17, 2005, letter to Catholics of the diocese, Bishop Paul S. Loverde wrote, “Together, we have an overwhelming responsibility to provide for the safety and welfare of our children and young people. … One of ways we are ensuring the safety of our children in through accountability measures such as our annual report on child protection and victim assistance efforts. I hope you will take the time to read our “Report on Child Protection and Victim Assistance, 2004-2005” and familiarize your- self with the thorough and rigor- ous approach we are taking as a diocesan family of faith. A second accountability measure is the report offered by our Child Protection Advisory Board, comprised of eight members who serve an advisory role in the formulation of child protection policies and procedures. Finally, the national independent audit by the National Review Board this year found the diocese to be in compliance with all articles of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. We cannot change history, but we can do all that is possible not to repeat it. One way to do that is through accountability measures such as this report, our Advisory Board report, and the nationwide independent audit. As your bishop, I am confident that with our rigorous framework to ensure the safety of children under our care, we will emerge more deeply and steadfastly committed to the call to holiness. Amen.

Faithfully in Christ,

+Paul S. Loverde
Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde
Bishop of Arlington

CHILD PROTECTION REPORT

Annual Report
On Child Protection and Victim Outreach
In The Diocese of Arlington, 2004-05

FEBRUARY 2004-FEBRUARY 2005

In June, 2004, Bishop Loverde ap- pointed Father Specht as Bishop, a priest of the diocese since 1996 and former Chap- lain at St. Thomas More Catholic High School as Fairview as Director of Child Protection and Safety for the Diocese of Arlington. Father Specht oversees the implemen- tation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and su- pervises programs called for by the Charter.

EDUCATION

Since June 2004, a comprehensive adult training program for diocesan priests, bishop, and school staff was implemented throughout the diocese. Train- ing of employees and volunteers in the areas of sexual misconduct has been a central component of the diocese’s child abuse prevention program since 1991. In June, 2004, Bishop Loverde selected “Protecting God’s Children for Adults” as the key element in training of all employees and those volunteers who have contact with children within the diocese. Over 9,000 diocesan employees and volunteers have participated in “Protecting God’s Children for Adults” since its introduction last June.

In November, 2004, the diocese began to offer “Protecting God’s Children for Parents” as a program to provide train- ing for families in understanding the nature and dangers of child exploitation. The program, which provides tools and resources for the safety training of chil- dren, is available to parishes and school communities.

Also in November, Father James G. “Randy” Czindl announced that all clergy and diocesan employees, as well as volunteers who have contact with children in the dio- cese. Each recipient is required to sign a statement that he or she has read it and respecting the innocence of children. Par- ishes have also been extended the oppor- tunity to develop their own program to meet their specific needs, granted that their program meets the criteria set by the Charter and the Diocesan Child Protection and Safety programs.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

In August, 2004, Bishop Loverde an- nounced that all clergy, diocesan em- ployees and volunteers who have con- tact with children will be required to complete comprehensive criminal back- ground checks. The checks are con- ducted under the provisions of the Code of the State of Virginia and include na- tional checks for convictions. Also re- quired is a check of the Central Regis- try of Virginia Sex/Abuse/Child Pro- tection Services for founded cases of child abuse. Since background checks were initiated last August, 18,000 diocesan employees and volun- teers of the diocese have completed these checks. Background checks on all diocesan personnel will be completed by June 2005. All new diocesan person- nel and volunteers who have contact with children are required to complete these checks prior to the start of their service.

CODE OF CONDUCT

In accord with the Child Protection Policy, the diocese’s Code of Con- duct for all clergy, diocesan employees and volunteers was promulgated. The code was promulgated previously without facial-ities, was dismissed from the clerical state by the Holy See.

1974-2004

On Feb. 18, 2004, the diocese issued its “Report on the History of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Clergy of the Dio- cese of Arlington, 1974-2004,” in which all cases of sexual abuse of minors by clergy reported to the diocese since the diocese’s founding in 1974 were re- ported. The report found that nine of the 891 diocesan and religious priests who have served in the diocese, or 1 percent, were accused of sexual abuse of minors by 11 victims. Of the nine priests, one was exonerated, two are deceased, one priest, retired without faculties at the time of the 2004 report, has since been dismissed from the clerical state by the Holy See, and the remaining five are no longer in ministry. They are not permis- sed to serve in any ministry, celebrate Mass publicly, administer the sacra- ments, wear clerical garb or present themselves publicly as priests. One per- manent deacon was also accused of child sexual abuse and is no longer in ministry. All of the alleged incidents occurred before 1984.

(Please turn to page 14)

An Advisory Board was appointed by Bishop Loverde and called together in late summer of 2003 as a unique step in organizing a proper approach to the protection of children in the Arlington Diocese. This was accomplished 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 Episcopal Policies Dealing With Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons, approved by the United States 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 voices 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.

While the deliberations of the Advisory Board are confidential, recommendations regarding the adoption and implementation of the ongoing Background Check Program and other worthy educational and training commitments made to protect children and to heal victims and their families, are found in the voice, vision and experience of qualified professionals in their community.

Arlington Catholic Herald February 17, 2005

2004 Annual Report On Child Protection... (Continued from page 13)

OVERVIEW

In June 2004, Bishop Loverde appointed Patricia Mudd, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., as Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Arlington. In her role, Patricia Mudd coordinates outreach to victims, including the pastoral care of anyone who reports having been sexually abused as a minor by a priest or diocesan employee. This appointment is in conformity with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and is supported by the Office of the Bishop.

OUTREACH, HEALING AND RECONCILIATION, 2004-2005

Since the report of 2004, the Diocese of Arlington has provided ongoing outreach to victims/survivors of sexual abuse. The Victim Assistance Coordinator is responsible for the support of victims/ survivors who were abused by a priest or deacon in another diocese or religious order and now live in the Diocese of Arlington. The Victim Assistance Coordinator also has assisted, at the requests of dioceses where they were abused, two victims/survivors who were abused as young adults.

The outreach included:
— Coordinating victims’ meetings with Victim Assistance Coordinators from other dioceses and religious orders to provide referrals for counseling and spiritual assistance;
— Encouraging adults victimized as children and adults who suspect child abuse in their community to report abuse to public authorities;
— Disseminating throughout the diocesan organization the names of the Masses to Pray for Healing of Victims of Sexual Abuse;
— Extending the offer of Bishop Paul S. Loverde and Father Mark Mealey, O.S.F.S., Moderator of the Curia, to listen to victims/survivors of clerical sexual abuse;
— Referring victims to Support Groups;
— Offering care and support to victims who are struggling to live with the devastating aftereffects of their abuse.

In addition to her direct assistance to victims/survivors of abuse by priests and deacons of the Catholic Church, the Victim Assistance Coordinator continues to provide consultation to the general public regarding the sexual abuse of children.

The extent of physical, emotional and sexual abuse and neglect in families and in our community is a very serious problem in society today. As a result of the widening awareness regarding the work of the Arlington Diocese to implement the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the Victim Assistance Coordinator has also received requests from people in the community requesting referrals for counseling by trained professionals. Additionally, victims/survivors have made requests for priests with whom they might seek spiritual assistance and healing.

DOCEANAN MASSES TO PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

In June 2004, the Victim Assistance Coordinator coordinated the diocese’s first-ever Mass to Pray for Healing of Victims of Sexual Abuse in the Diocese of Arlington. Since then, five such Masses have been held, three of which were celebrated by Bishop Loverde. At the receptions following the Masses, the Bishop and/or concelebrating priests, the Diocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator and trained social workers and counselors had the opportunity to meet with victims/survivors and to assist them in initiating a healing process, if they so wish. At the receptions, a number of people took the opportunity to meet with Bishop Loverde, the priests, counselors and Victim Assistance Coordinator and later followed up with calls for counseling or referrals or requests for spiritual assistance.

In an attempt to make these Masses accessible, the Masses have been scheduled in each of the six deaneries — or geographical groupings of the diocese’s 66 parishes, including Arlington, Fairfax, Manassas, Fredericksburg, Great Falls and Warrenton. In the spring of 2005, the diocese has scheduled Masses to Pray for Healing of Victims of Sexual Abuse, to be held in Lake Ridge, Alexandria, Prince Royal and Falls Church. On June 14, 2005, Bishop Loverde will celebrate the first such bilingual (Spanish/ English) Mass at St. Anthony Church in Falls Church.

FACILITATING THE HEALING PROCESS

The Victim Assistance Coordinator has developed a list of trained therapists with experience in the treatment of sexual abuse. The list is comprised of licensed clinical social workers, psychologists, professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, and psychiatrists who work within the diocesan Catholic Charities Family Service department or in private practice. Assistance is available from trained professionals in both English and Spanish.

The Victim Assistance Coordinator has received a number of requests for spiritual assistance, guidance and direction from Catholic victims/survivors of sexual abuse and their families seeking reconciliation and healing from the Catholic Church. In response, the Victim Assistance Coordinator facilitated the training for a group of diocesan and religious order priests to assist their families to help them face spiritual direction to victims/survivors of sexual abuse. These priests are now available for guidance and direction.

In February 2005, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington began to accept registration for two Support Groups for victim/survivors of sexual abuse to be held in Arlington and Fredericksburg. Family Service clinicians with experience in working with victim/survivors of sexual abuse will lead these confidential groups, which will begin in March 2005, and are open to anyone abused by a priest or other persons in their family or community.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE

These expenses were paid through insurance and general operating revenues of the diocese. The annual diocesan fund-raising appeal (the Bishop’s Lenten Appeal) and the capital campaign (Rooted in Faith – Purpose in Hope) funds are received as restricted gifts and used only for the areas stated in campaign materials. The diocese offers counseling whenever a credible allegation is made. Since the 2004 report, 84,200 has gone to victim counseling. No funds have gone toward victim settlements.


TO REPORT AN ALLEGATION

To report an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor, people are directed to:
1. Immediately call Child Protection Services (CPS) and/or their local police agency (Rooted in Faith – Purpose in Hope).
2. If the abuse concerns any member of the clergy, diocesan employee or volunteer, then call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 703.841.2520.

Very respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Byrne, Chairman
Bishop’s Advisory Board
Northern Virginia Catholic Herald, February 17, 2005

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February 17, 2005
Arlington Catholic Herald

CHILD PROTECTION REPORT

Efforts to Ensure the Safety of Children and Young People
In the Diocese of Arlington and Outreach to Victims: A Chronology

1974

1983

1991

Arlington Diocese implements a system of seminars to educate clergy, parishioners, educators and volunteers in the prevention and reporting of child abuse.

March 1999
Bishop Paul S. Loverde installed as third Bishop of Arlington.

Bishop Loverde implements an internal audit process by which parishes are routinely audited for compliance with the diocese’s sexual misconduct policies.

May 2002
Bishop Loverde sends a letter responding to questions on the sexual abuse crisis to every household in the Diocese of Arlington.

June 2002
U.S. Bishops meet in Dallas and approve the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and Essential Norms (See www.usccb.org/opcp/chart.html).

October 2002
Bishop Loverde establishes Diocesan Review Board, comprised of nine members (majority lay persons) who will assist Bishop Loverde in his assessment of any instances of sexual abuse of minors by priests or deacons, and in the determination of suitability for ministry.

December 2002
Holy See gives recognition (approval) of the U.S. Bishops’ Essential Norms.

May 2003
Bishop Loverde establishes Advisory Board, comprised of eight members who serve in an advisory role in the formulation of child sexual abuse policies and procedures.

July 2003
Arlington Diocese renews its commitment to the original goals of its 1991 sexual abuse/misconduct policy by updating it to conform to the requirements of the Charter. The revised Policy on the Protection of Children/Young People and Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and Child Abuse is online at www.arlingtoncatholic.org.

August 2003
Bishop Loverde appoints Catherine Nolan, M.S.W., as the first Victim Assistance Coordinator and Director of Child Protection and Safety.

September 2003
Arlington Diocese is audited by the Gavin Group for its compliance with the requirements of the Charter. The on-site audit consisted of personal interviews and file reviews of diocesan records and public documents.

Diocese compiles list of priests and trained personnel, including therapists and counselors, available for victim counseling.

Jan. 6, 2004
National Compliance Audit commissioned by the U.S. Bishops released.

Diocese of Arlington is found to be in compliance with 12 of the 14 Charter articles assessed by auditors.

Feb. 11, 2004
Bishop Loverde announces that the Diocese of Arlington will build on its previous safe environment programs for clergy, diocesan employees, volunteers and interested parents by using “Protecting God’s Children,” a program which teaches awareness of and skills for preventing child abuse.

Feb. 12, 2004
Victim Assistance Coordinator and Director of Child Protection and Safety Catherine Nolan resigns; Jennifer Alvaro, L.C.S.W., is appointed and serves in the position until June 2004.

Feb. 18, 2004
Bishop Loverde issues a “Report on the History of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Clergy in the Diocese of Arlington” containing information on all known incidents of sexual abuse of minors by clergy in the diocese since its establishment in 1974.

Feb. 27, 2004
Release of John Jay Study, commissioned by the U.S. Bishops, on the nature and scope of the problem of sexual abuse of children and young people by clergy within the Catholic Church in the United States.

Feb. 27, 2004
Release of the National Review Board’s preliminary report on the causes and context of the problem of sexual abuse of children by Catholic clergy.

March 2004
Network of liaisons to parishes in the diocese is created in order to facilitate communications between parishes and the Child Protection and Safety program.

June 7, 2004
Bishop Loverde announces that Father Terry Specht will assume the responsibilities of Interim Director of Child Protection and Safety program. Patricia Mudd, Associate Director of Social Services at Catholic Charities, will serve as Victim Assistance Coordinator.

June 8-10, 2004
Twenty-six facilitators — nominated by their pastors — are trained in how to present the adult safe environment program “Protecting God’s Children” to diocesan employees and volunteers, as well as parents and interested members of the diocese. The presentations are offered in English, Spanish and Vietnamese throughout the diocese annually by the facilitators.

June 10, 2004
Bishop Loverde gives opening address at first “Protecting God’s Children” adult safe environment presentation to over 300 diocesan employees and volunteers.

June 30, 2004
Bishop Loverde celebrates the diocese’s first of five Masses held in 2004 to pray for the healing of victims of sexual abuse; the Masses, held throughout the diocese, are followed by receptions at which counselors, the Victim Assistance Coordinator, and others are present.

Aug. 12, 2004
The diocese, which has required self-disclosure background questionnaires from all employees and volunteers since 1991, begins official criminal history background checks and Child Protection Service checks, which includes fingerprinting, on all remaining diocesan employees and volunteers who have significant contact with children. Official criminal history background checks have already been conducted on all priests, teachers, teachers’ aides, and Catholic Charities personnel.

Sept. 8, 2004
A Code of Conduct applicable to all diocesan employees and those volunteers having substantial contact with children is published. The code provides direction in appropriate conduct with children.

Oct. 4-7, 2004
In the second nationwide audit commissioned by the National Review Board, the diocese is audited by two former FBI agents now working for the Boston-based Gavin Group. The agents reviewed policies, records and materials and interviewed diocesan staff to determine compliance with the requirements for the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Nov. 4, 2004
“Formation in Christian Chastity” is selected as the child safety program for the diocese to aid parents informing their children in the virtue of Christian chastity and in providing basic safe environment training for their children. The program is for use in Catholic schools and religious education classes.

Jan. 27, 2005
The Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator announces the establishment of two Support Groups for victims of sexual abuse by clergy, family members or others in the community.

Feb. 17, 2005

Feb. 18, 2005
An independent audit commissioned by the National Review Board of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is released, in which the Diocese of Arlington is found to be in full compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.


CHILD PROTECTION
Father Terry Specht, Director of the Diocesan Child Protection and Safety program, said, “We are pleased to be in full compliance with the Charter. We now have in place a comprehensive and thorough program which will contribute to the safety and protection of children in our diocesan community.” Since the last audit, the Child Protection and Safety program has:

- Selected a standard, adult safe environment training program and trained over 9,000 diocesan employees, volunteers and parents, with presentations given by 26 trained facilitators in English, Spanish and Vietnamese throughout the diocese.
- Selected and implemented “Formation in Christian Chastity” as a safe environment program for children. Of the diocese’s 66 parishes and 37 schools; Disseminated a Code of Conduct applicable to all employees and those volunteers having substantial contact with children, providing direction in appropriate conduct with children;
- Run official criminal history background checks and Child Protection Service checks on all priests, deacons, seminarians, diocesan employees and volunteers who have significant contact with children.

VICTIM OUTREACH
Patricia Mudd, A.C.S.W., Victim Assistance Coordinator for the diocese, said, “This year’s report and audit chronicle a number of initiatives we have taken to reach out to victim/survivors, and aid them in their journey to healing. Through these and other initiatives, our diocese is demonstrating a growing concern for and awareness of the reality of sexual abuse in our society at large.” Since the time of the last audit, the Victim Assistance Coordinator has:
- Assisted six victim-survivors of sexual abuse who were abused by a priest or deacon in another diocese or religious order and now live in the Diocese of Arlington.
- Assisted two women in the Diocese of Arlington to pray for Healing for Victims of Sexual Abuse in the Diocese of Arlington, and scheduled four further Masses, for 2005.
- Established, at the request of Bishop Loverde, two support groups for any victim/survivors of sexual abuse.
- Developed a list of trained therapists with experience in the treatment of sexual abuse, available for counseling in Spanish and English.

Announcement of Charter for Protection of Children and Young People.