



## Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection

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### **Key Findings of the 2017 Annual Report on the Implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People**

Information from the audit of dioceses/eparchies by StoneBridge Business Partners based on Charter implementation efforts during the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017:

#### **Audit Compliance and Participation**

- StoneBridge Business Partners, the auditor, visited 61 dioceses/eparchies and collected data from 133 others. All dioceses/eparchies were found compliant except for the Melkite Eparchy of Newton, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, and the Syrian Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance, who were found non-compliant with certain articles of the *Charter (Annual Report, pp. 13-14)*.
- Three dioceses/eparchies did not participate in the audit including the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands (due to hurricanes Maria and Irma), the Eparchy of St. Mary Queen of Peace, and the Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle (*Annual Report, p. 14*).

#### **Allegations**

- 654 victims/survivors reported 695 allegations of abuse against clergy. Compared to 2015 and 2016, the number of allegations has decreased significantly due to fewer bankruptcy proceedings and statute of limitations changes. The number of allegations from 2017 is similar to levels in 2014 (*Annual Report, p. 23*).
- A total of 321 allegations were brought to the attention of diocesan/eparchial representatives through self-disclosure, making this the principal reporting method during the audit period. The second most popular method of reporting was through an attorney, which represented 206 of the total allegations. The remaining 168 reports were made by spouses, relatives, or other representatives such as other dioceses, eparchies, religious orders, or law enforcement officials who brought the allegations to the attention of the diocese/eparchy on behalf of the survivor (*Annual Report, p. 24*).
- During the current audit period, dioceses and eparchies provided outreach and support to 205 victims/survivors and their families who reported during this audit period. Continued support was provided to 1,702 victims/survivors and their families who reported abuse in prior audit periods (*Annual Report, p. 24*).
- The number of clerics accused of sexual abuse of a minor during the audit period totaled 583. Accused priests for the audit period totaled 493. Of this total, 389 were diocesan priests, 77 belonged to a religious order, and 27 were incardinated elsewhere. There were eight deacons

accused during the audit period. Allegations brought against “unknown” clerics totaled 65, and 17 “other” clerics were accused. Of the total identified clerics, 231 or 40% of them had been accused in previous audit periods (*Annual Report*, p. 25).

- During the 2017 audit period, nine allegations were brought against clerics for possession of child pornography. As of June 30, 2017, two allegations were substantiated and the priests were permanently removed from ministry, two were unsubstantiated, two were unable to be proven, one was still under investigation, and two were awaiting a response from local police (*Annual Report*, p. 26).
- 24 allegations were made by current minors, of which; 6 were substantiated, 8 were unsubstantiated, 3 were unable to be proven, 5 still under investigation, and 2 others were referred to other institutions (*Annual Report*, p. 25).
- Similar to previous years, 18% of allegations reported by current minors were determined to be substantiated (*Annual Report*, p. 25).

#### **Safe Environment Training and Background Checks**

- 4.4 million children (93%) received safe environment training to help them identify abuse and report abuse to trusted adults (*Annual Report*, pp. 26-27).
- Over 2 million adults, including candidates for ordination, deacons, priests, educators, employees, and volunteers also receiving safe environment training (98%), as well as background checks (97%) (*Annual Report*, pp. 28-29).

Information based on survey data collected from dioceses/eparchies and religious institutes concerning the period between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA):

#### **Financial Costs Related to Child Protection and Victim Assistance in Dioceses/Eparchies**

- Costs related to allegations for dioceses/eparchies and religious institutes including settlements, payments to victims/survivors, support for offenders, attorney's fees and other costs were \$228,956,675 (*Annual Report*, p. 47).
- Dioceses/eparchies and religious institutes spent a combined \$34,852,598 on child protection efforts such as safe environment training, background checks, and staffing costs (*Annual Report*, p. 47).

#### **Allegations**

- Among credible allegations received, most victims/survivors of abuse were 10-14 years old, 82% of victims/survivors were male, and most abuse occurred between 1960 and 1990, with a peak in the 1970's (*Annual Report*, pp. 36-37).

<b>Year(s) of Occurrences of New Credible Instances of Abuse in Dioceses/Eparchies</b> (Based on survey data collected July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017 on credible allegations by CARA)	
<b>Year(s)</b>	<b>Occurrences of Abuse Alleged to Have Begun During Time Period</b>
2017	4
2015-2016	7
2010-2014	4
2005-2009	2
2000-2004	5
1995-1999	4
1990-1994	7
1985-1989	31
1980-1984	40
1975-1979	65
1970-1974	62
1965-1969	44
1960-1964	37
1955-1959	17
1954 or earlier	19
Unknown	26

- About 4/5<sup>th</sup> of alleged offenders identified between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 were deceased, already removed from ministry, laicized or missing. The other 1/5<sup>th</sup> were permanently removed, returned to ministry, temporarily removed pending the completion of an investigation, or still active pending investigations during the survey period (*Annual Report*, p. 38).

*Other information from the audit of dioceses/eparchies by StoneBridge Business Partners based on Charter implementation efforts during the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017:*

#### **Parish Audits**

- The auditors conducted audits of 110 parishes and schools in 28 dioceses, an increase from 97 parishes and schools in 23 dioceses in last year's audit. Additionally, 95 dioceses indicated that they perform internal parish audits in some form on a regular basis, which is an increase of 10 dioceses since last year, and 10 dioceses do so on an "as needed" basis (*Annual Report*, p. 23).

## **Auditor Recommendations**

- The auditors identified general concerns in dioceses/eparchies related to “general complacency,” “policies and procedures,” “screening and training issues,” “education and formation,” and “monitoring” (*Annual Report*, pp. 14-17)
- Please refer to pages 14-17 of the *Annual Report* to review the “Audit Findings and Concerns” as reported by StoneBridge. These pages detail the issues discovered during the on-site audits that StoneBridge believes could have an impact on a diocese’s/eparchy’s ability to fully implement the *Charter*.