



OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

PRESS RELEASE

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**STATEMENT OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK
ON THE "JOHN JAY STUDY"**

Today, the National Review Board of the Office of Child and Youth Protection of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is releasing the results of what has come to be known as the "John Jay Study." This report is intended to be an overview of the allegations of sexual abuse of minors against some of the members of the clergy of the United States from 1950 through 2002. It will also report what dioceses have spent for settlements and counseling for those who have been abused and for counseling and treatment for those who have been accused of abuse. It is clear that, while we cannot undo the harm that has been done in the past, we are striving to do all that is possible to make certain such tragedies are never repeated.

The Archdiocese of New York is releasing the figures that it made available to the researchers at John Jay College. While the "John Jay Study" provides statistics for all of the dioceses of the United States, and not for any individual diocese, the decision was made to release information pertaining to the Archdiocese of New York in order to put the study into proper context.

INFORMATION CONCERNING CLERGY

After an exhaustive review of all personnel files of priests and deacons, the Archdiocese of New York has determined that, in the more than fifty year period from 1950 through 2002, thirty-eight Archdiocesan clerics were found to have committed at least one act of sexual abuse of a minor. In addition, seven extern priests, that is priests from other dioceses who served in the Archdiocese of New York, were found to have committed at least one act of sexual abuse against a minor during that period. This represents 1.19% of the Archdiocesan clergy and extern clergy who have served the Archdiocese of New York during that period.

Priests who were members of religious orders were not included in the Archdiocese of New York's report to John Jay College.

Moreover, four other clerics have been cleared of accusations of sexual abuse of a minor during the aforementioned period and have been permitted to return to ministry.

Finally, no member of the clergy who has been found to have committed even one act of sexual abuse of a minor is presently serving in ministry, or will be allowed to serve in the future.

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ABUSED

The aforementioned forty-five clerics were accused by one hundred thirty-six individuals, some of whom were abused on one occasion, while others were abused a number of times, and in some cases over the course of several years.

The largest number of *incidents* of abuse that have been reported to the Archdiocese of New York occurred during the 1970's and 1980's. In the 1950's, there were seven cases. In the 1960's, there were twenty-six cases. In the 1970's, there were thirty-nine cases. In the 1980's, there were thirty-six cases. In the 1990's, there were twenty-seven cases. Since 2000, there has been one case.

Most of the *reports* of abuse, however, were received by the Archdiocese, during the 1990's. In the 1980's, there were twenty-four cases reported. In the 1990's, there were seventy-eight cases reported. Since 2000, there have been thirty-four cases reported.

It is clear, therefore, that most of these incidents of abuse occurred many years ago and the reports of the abuse were received many years later. New incidents of sexual abuse are very rare.

INFORMATION CONCERNING FINANCES

Of the funds paid by the Archdiocese, \$6,222,357 was used to provide counseling and settlements for those who were abused; \$1,105,846 was used to provide counseling and treatment for clerics; and \$1,229,098 was used for legal fees.

Fifty-seven percent of these monies came from the Archdiocesan Self-Insured Retention Fund, and forty-three percent came from Archdiocesan operating funds and return on investments. No money was taken from other Archdiocesan sources, such as the Cardinal's Appeal, the Inner-City Scholarship Fund, the Archdiocesan Pension Funds, or Catholic Charities Funds.

STEPS FOR THE FUTURE

Any case of sexual abuse of a minor by a member of the clergy is a tragedy. To those who have been abused, we continue to offer our support, sympathy, and prayers. In this regard, we continue to encourage, and even urge, anyone who has an allegation of abuse against a cleric to report it immediately and directly to the appropriate civil authorities. If the Archdiocese of New York has reason to believe that an act of abuse of a minor by a cleric has occurred, it will immediately contact the appropriate civil

authorities. Should a cleric be found to have committed even a single act of sexual abuse of a minor, he will not be permitted to serve in ministry again.

The Archdiocese has established a *Safe Environment Program Office*, that is currently conducting background checks and implementing a program to train those who work with minors, educate parents, and assist our young people themselves so as to preclude, as much as humanly possible, any future sexual abuse of minors. Moreover, *Codes of Conduct*, both for clergy and for laity, have been established to clarify what is and is not appropriate behavior for those who work with or are associated with minors. Finally, *Victims Assistance Coordinators* have been named to offer pastoral assistance to those who come forward with an accusation of abuse against a member of the clergy.

The Archdiocese of New York is releasing this information as part of its on-going effort to protect children and young people. With trust in the providence of the Lord, we seek His continued guidance in our efforts to ensure that the children and young people in our care grow “in wisdom, age, and grace” over the years that lie ahead.