

History and Context: Protection of Children and Young People Initiative Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

1987-1988

- Workshops held for priests and church personnel on ministry related sexual misconduct, boundaries, etc.
- Archdiocese releases nation's first written policy on Clergy Sexual Abuse of Children.

1990-1992

Over 2000 people involved in developing a more extensive set of policies and procedures about safety in church ministry.

1992

- Archbishop John R. Roach issues: *UNDERSTANDING SEXUAL ISSUES IN MINISTRY*.
- Victims Advocate and Assistance position established.

1992 and continuing to present:

- All clergy and many lay professionals receive training about sexual misconduct and boundary issues.
- Model training programs (notably the video, "Understanding the Sexual Boundaries of the Pastoral Relationship") for parish and school staffs and leadership groups are widely distributed and used.

1993

Criminal background checks for all church and school employees began.

1995

Archbishop Roach establishes Clergy Review Board.

1998

Archbishop Harry Flynn updates, revises and strengthens the policies outlined in "Understanding Sexual Issues in Ministry" under the title: *A TIME TO HEAL*

2002

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved *Charter for the Protection of Children & Young People: PROMISE TO PROTECT/PLEDGE TO HEAL*.

2003-2004

- Archdiocese participates in first compliance audit in 2003 (followed by audits in 2004 and 2005).
- Began background checks on volunteers in parishes and schools in 2004.

2004-2005

- Archdiocese researches personal safety protection programs for adults and children.
- Archdiocese began orientation meetings on *Promise to Protect/Pledge to Heal* and its Essential Norms, starting with School Board In-Service meetings and a leadership meeting for pastors, principals and DREs.
- VIRTUS program for adult education to prevent sexual abuse was adopted. Trainers were trained in spring, 2005.

2005-2006

- VIRTUS awareness sessions for Archdiocesan clergy and employees completed. VIRTUS sessions for volunteers began in the fall with over 22,500 participating.
- Over 70,000 parents of school and parish children receive parent information.
- Curricula chosen for children and young people.
- Pilot schools and parishes use chosen curricula and give input.

2006-2007

- Implementation of the children and youth programs began in all schools and parishes.
- Information sessions offered to pastors, DREs and school leaders. Instructional training sessions held for each curriculum choice.
- Parishes and schools move into a standardized tracking and reporting system with Fall Planning and Spring Implementation Audit Reports.
- *RESTORING TRUST: WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE* (revised sexual abuse policies) and the Codes of Pastoral Conduct for both Employees and Volunteers promulgated March 15, 2007.
- Parishes and schools complete initial implementation cycle with over 75,000 children having participated in safety programs.

2007 and Beyond

- Approximately 500 VIRTUS sessions are conducted every year throughout the Archdiocese.
- All priests, deacons, and chancery staff participate in the Essential 3 (background check, VIRTUS attendance and signed code of conduct).
- Over 4,000 parish and school employees, and 23,000 volunteers participate in the Essential 3.
- Yearly, approximately 80,000 children participate in age appropriate safety lessons.