



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Archbishop
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

October 29, 2012

To the people of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Dear friends in Christ,

New archdiocesan policies governing the protection of children and young people will officially go into effect on November 1. They can also be found on the Archdiocese of Philadelphia web site at www.archphila.org.

Our Archdiocese is committed to preventing the sexual abuse of children, and these policies and procedures are a clear indication of that promise. While recently formalized, they've guided our practices for more than a year now. They'll be reviewed on a regular basis and updated as circumstances require. I believe that we can be proud of this great effort by a highly experienced group of individuals to protect young people.

Former Philadelphia Deputy District Attorney Al Toczydlowski led the policy drafting team, aided by veteran Philadelphia child abuse prosecutor Gina Maisto Smith. Their work included extensive consultation with child protection and victims' assistance experts, and current and former law enforcement officials. In the fall of 2011, Mr. Toczydlowski and Ms. Smith arranged meetings with four of the five county District Attorneys in the territory of the Archdiocese to solicit their suggestions and concerns. During 2012, additional revisions have been incorporated from the Archdiocesan Priests Council, the Archdiocesan Review Board, internal staff and the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. Throughout the drafting process, the team worked to address the concerns of the 2011 Grand Jury report.

The new policies include several important features. All allegations of clergy sexual abuse involving a minor are immediately reported to law enforcement. Every complaint is logged, and each allegation is promptly reviewed to determine whether and what interim restrictions on ministry or employment should be imposed. No internal archdiocesan investigation proceeds without the approval of law enforcement. Archdiocesan victims' assistance services are now strictly segregated from our internal investigation efforts.

All complaints against clergy involving a minor, even those solely involving violations of *The Standards of Ministerial Behavior and Boundaries* are now sent to the Archdiocesan Review Board. This board has been substantially upgraded in its cross section of professional skills over the past year. It functions as a confidential advisory committee to the Archbishop, providing recommendations in the assessment of allegations of abuse and suitability for ministry. Also

included in the policies is a codification of steps to ensure that any cleric seeking to minister in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is screened in a consistent and thorough manner.

What we need to remember, going forward, is that even the best policies depend on our earnest dedication to live and enforce them. I am committed to act accordingly, now and always.

Sincerely yours in Jesus Christ,

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia