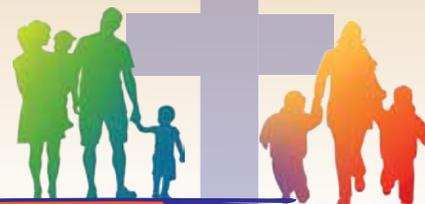


# A Report from the Office of Child and Youth Protection to the People of the Diocese

Report of Activity for July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014

PROMISE TO PROTECT

PLEDGE TO HEAL



September 2014

## From the Director, Carrie Cooper

I am filled with gratitude as I look back over the past year's accomplishments and progress made in protecting children and vulnerable adults from sexual abuse. I am grateful for the broad community support shown to the Office of Child and Youth Protection and to the mission of our work. Together, we form the first line of defense for children. As predators continue to search for new opportunities to groom potential victims, we redouble our efforts and share information, train adults and children, and empower local communities. As partners, we all recognize the importance of knowing the warning signs of abuse, how and what to report, and concrete steps to take to make our parishes and schools safe.



I am proud of our Victim Services team and their efforts to reach out, listen and respond to victims. They are a vital piece of the healing journey. From experience, we know that it takes great courage to come forward and share their story. I have seen many who are benefitting from our efforts and also know that the wounds in the diocese are deep. Many victims continue to suffer with enormous pain, confusion and anger. We are resolute in our commitment to continue to reach out to those who are hurting.

Last year, Pope Francis created the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors. In July, he met with victims of abuse and personally asked for their forgiveness. His efforts, his words and his actions keep my hope alive that we can begin to heal in this diocese: that we can effectively serve the needs of victims and survivors; that we can reach those who yearn for healing but have not yet come forward; and that we can earn the trust and faith of the people of our diocese. We have much work ahead despite the progress and reform at work in the Church.

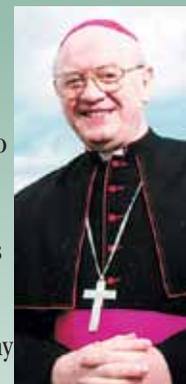
My team and I have been touched by the words of Pope Francis and continue trying to answer his call to be like a field hospital:

*"I see the church as a field hospital after battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds... Heal the wounds, heal the wounds.... And you have to start from the ground up." ~ Pope Francis*

Please continue to pray with me for the healing of our diocese.

## In Memorium — Bishop Raymond J. Boland

*fōr sīt* — noun : the ability to predict or the action of predicting what will happen or be needed in the future. Many words describe our beloved Bishop Emeritus Raymond J. Boland: wise; capable; eloquent orator; and quick-witted. The Office of Child and Youth Protection also would describe him as a leader with foresight.



When he passed in February of this year, there was a great recounting of his accomplishments. One accomplishment is a stand out in our world: in 1993, Bishop Boland strengthened diocesan policy guiding the response to allegations of child sexual abuse. He announced a "zero tolerance" for any person who would harm a child and stated publicly that he would suspend from ministry any person accused of abuse. Nine years later, that same "zero tolerance" language was adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in the landmark Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

As episcopal moderator of the National Catholic Risk Retention Group, Bishop Boland helped develop the VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children program. Currently in use in a majority of dioceses, the program raises awareness of child sexual abuse and was in development before the scandals in Boston garnered one headline. "The legacy of Bishop Boland lives fervently in the minds and hearts of the millions across the United States and beyond who continue the crusade in prevention efforts to eradicate child sexual abuse," said Patricia Neal, Director of VIRTUS® Programs in the United States.

Every day, the Office of Child and Youth Protection rededicates its work to Bishop Boland. Today, we dedicate this report to his foresight.

## Office of Child and Youth Protection (OCYP)



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In July 2011, I assumed responsibility for creating and implementing a protocol to address allegations of sexual abuse within our church. More importantly, I became your partner in keeping children and vulnerable adults safe. Over the last year, I received 105 reports. If you remember nothing else about my work, remember that I pledged to immediately report concerns to civil authorities and to diligently conduct an independent internal investigation. For our partnership to have integrity, we must have both external and internal accountability. I continue to urge every adult to first make a report to the civil authorities, who have the primary responsibility for determining the legal status of citizens before the law. My role is to investigate the concern and provide facts to the church so that a determination can be made about fitness for ministry, employment or volunteerism. For each and every report brought to me, the Independent Review Board hears the results of my investigation and recommends next steps to the Bishop.

**Sexual Abuse Reports**

Over the past year – July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 – there were eight sexual abuse allegations. Additionally, one report received in the prior year was resolved in the current year.

These nine reports pointed to questionable actions of employees, volunteers and clerics. As a first step, I determine whether there is a credible allegation or reasonable suspicion of sexual abuse that involves a minor or vulnerable adult. These reports make up the reports of “Sexual Abuse.” As a second step, reports are immediately made to law enforcement and, if the victim is a minor, the Missouri Children’s Division. The third step is to ensure that the accused is placed on a precautionary suspension from all duties within the church.

*If the allegation comes forward through the civil courts, the Ombudsman does not take action. During this reporting period, diocesan counsel received eight civil lawsuits that involve six clerics. Along with 23 other civil lawsuits, these matters are before the court. Additionally, the diocese settled four civil cases, received one voluntary dismissal and two dismissals on appeal.*

**Boundary Violation Reports**

In situations where behaviors are suspicious, the report is investigated to determine whether there was a lack of understanding or if the accused was engaged in behaviors to groom a victim. Grooming behaviors warrant immediate action to protect the vulnerable among us. As a precaution, I report all boundary violations indicating abuse to the civil authorities.

**Sexual Abuse: 9 (8 Persons Named)**

- Substantiated: 2  
*Each individual removed from public ministry.*
- Cleared: 3
- Unsubstantiated or Inconclusive: 3  
*These reports did not include sufficient credible information about the location or the identity of the accused to enable an investigation.*
- Referred to Religious Community 1\*  
*The individual was removed from ministry and is facing a civil investigation.*

**Boundary Violations: 15 (15 Persons Named)**

- Removed from Public Ministry, Employment or Volunteer Service: 4
- Inconclusive (no longer in ministry): 1
- Cleared: 4
- Educated and Returned with Supervision to Public Ministry, Employment or Volunteer Service: 6

**REPORTING ABUSE**

1. If the victim is a minor, call Missouri’s Child Abuse Hotline at 800.392.3738.
2. Call the police or 911.
3. If the abuser is an employee, volunteer or clergyman in the diocese, call the Ombudsman at 816.812.2500.

Reporting Period	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Sexual Abuse	20	17	8
Boundary Violations	20	16	15
Referrals	39	74	79
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>102**</b>

**23 Total Persons Named in 2013/2014 Abuse and Boundary Violation Reports**

Clergy	8
Employee	7
Volunteer	7
Religious Order	1

**Referrals**

“Referrals” include concerns that need attention, but are outside the scope of the OCYP (i.e. physical abuse or neglect) and concerns or reports that do not involve people who serve the Diocese (i.e. sexual abuse by a family member). In addressing these reports, referrals were made to civil authorities in 44 instances. In addition, some referrals were made to counselors and social workers, while complaints about clergy and employees were referred to the Vicar General and Human Resources. Reports involving peer abuse remain at an alarming rate, with 18 instances reported.

*\*In addition to notifying law enforcement, and the Children’s Division when appropriate, the Ombudsman refers all reports of abuse to the accused’s religious community, and notifies the Bishop. If the accused ministers in the diocese, the IRB also receives the report. The religious community holds jurisdiction in addressing reports about a member.*

**Safety Plans: 3\*\***

In January 2014, the Diocese promulgated Safety Guidelines and Policies regarding Registered Sex Offenders and people within the community who have raised suspicions of sexual abuse. These guidelines help to keep children and vulnerable adults safe by providing supervision. All Safety Plans approved by the OCYP are reviewed by the IRB. Safety Plans created for parents and guardians of Catholic school students are managed by the Catholic Schools Office. In this reporting period, there were three Safety Plans initiated through the OCYP.



*“The board is a great treasure for the Diocese. I am so grateful for their dedicated volunteer service. Please hold them in your daily prayers, and offer a word of gratitude for the challenging service they provide.”* — Carrie Cooper, Director

The Independent Review Board is chartered to advise the Bishop in all matters pertaining to sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults in the Diocese—from review of allegations to policy and procedure. In 2014, two voting members joined the board for a total of nine. Todd Jacobs brought extensive legal expertise to the board. Although Todd’s tenure on the board was short, with a job opportunity requiring relocation, his service was a great value. Amy Dublinske and Cy Ritter are the most recent additions to the board.

### **James Corwin, Chair**

Jim has thirty two years experience in local, state and federal law enforcement, encompassing all aspects of police management including patrol, investigations and administrative elements. Jim served as the Chief of Police for the Kansas City Missouri Police Department from 2004 until his retirement in 2011.



### **Amy Dublinske, MS, LPC**

Amy has more than twenty years of experience working with children and their families. Amy currently serves children and their families at Children’s Mercy Hospital and Clinics on the Child Abuse and Neglect staff. Amy also works with children and parents at the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOC-SA). Amy brings previous experience addressing abuse from the Missouri Division of Family Services as an Investigator and Team Leader.



### **Joyce Estes, LCSW**

Joyce has been working with child abuse victims for 26 years; counseling over 1,000 children. Joyce is the Director of the Children’s



Advocacy Center in St. Joseph and has been with the Center for 21 years. As an expert in child abuse in Buchanan County, Joyce has been testifying about sexual abuse for criminal court cases for the last 5 years. Joyce also provides adult education about child abuse to individuals, service organizations, companies, schools and others.

### **Sr. Suzanne Fitzmaurice, OSB**

Sr. Suzanne is a Theology Teacher at Cristo Rey High School in Kansas City. In addition to the expertise and insight her current assignment brings to the board, Sr. Suzanne worked at the Child Saving Institute in Omaha where she worked directly with at-risk youth.



### **Daniel J. Haus, Esquire**

Dan was a sworn law enforcement officer for over ten years. After Dan received his law degree he spent time in private practice until becoming in-house counsel for the Kansas City Police Department. Dan started his private firm after leaving KCPD. Dan also serves as the part-time Prosecuting Attorney for the City of Archie, Missouri. In addition to his professional background, he is also a Certified Missouri Master Naturalist and active in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.



### **Amber Heineman, Esquire**

Amber served as a former Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Jackson County prosecuting violent crimes including sexual abuse and domestic violence. Amber has served on the Board of Directors of the Child Protection



Center since 2013, and also is a member on the board of the Foundation for Inclusive Religious Education (FIRE).

### **John Larsen, Ph.D.**

John holds a theological degree from Duke University and a doctorate from Boston University in pastoral psychology and counseling. John was a counselor with Midwest Christian Counseling Center where he served as Clinical Director for nearly 29 years. Before retiring this spring, John spent time providing counseling at Village Presbyterian Church.



### **Cy Ritter, President, Police Foundation of Kansas City**

Cy has a wealth of expertise stemming from his extensive experience in law enforcement, serving most recently as the Deputy Director of the Jackson County Department of Corrections. Cy was an officer and commander with the Kansas City Police Department for over 25 years, retiring from his post as Deputy Chief in 2011. Before his law enforcement career, Cy spent nine years teaching and coaching in the public school system.



### **Rev. Robert Stewart, Pastor St. Margaret of Scotland**

Fr. Robert was ordained in 1982. With more than 30 years of dedicated service to the Diocese, Fr. Robert has had assignments at five different parishes in the diocese. Fr. Robert also served as Vocation Director from 2000-2005. Fr. Robert partners with several high schools to offer youth spiritual retreats.



### **EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:**

- Carrie Cooper  
Director, OCYP
- Rev. Charles Rowe  
Vicar General
- Jenifer Valenti  
Ombudsman



*“I am very thankful to James Corwin and the Independent Review Board for the renewed direction they have given this important responsibility. Everyone in our local Church can be encouraged by the work done by the Office of Child and Youth Protection, the Ombudsman, and the IRB for the protection of children.”* — Bishop Robert Finn



**Mary Bultmann, MA, LPC**

*Victim Advocate*

Mary received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Missouri Valley College in 2009, and a Master of Arts in Counseling from Webster University in 2012. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor. She has worked with children, teens, adults, couples and families in a variety of mental/behavioral health settings, including youth residential care, in-patient psychiatric care, incarcerated women, individuals and families in domestic violence, and private practice. Mary continues to pursue further



training in trauma, recovery and healing. She has completed her Level I training in EMDR, and is certified in Mental Health First Aid. Mary is a member of the American Counseling Association.

As the diocesan Victim Advocate, Mary provides support and resources to victims and their families in cases of sexual abuse perpetrated by diocesan personnel and/or volunteers. Mary serves the goal of helping victims and their families begin to heal from their trauma. She does this by working with the Counseling Coordinator to match victims with a counselor to suit their particular needs. She also offers ongoing pastoral care and resources including social and positive well-being services to promote recovery,

healing and reconciliation.

In addition to offering direct care to victims and survivors of abuse, Mary has initiated a number of outreach efforts. Mary partnered with the Kansas City Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood to offer Healing Circles to those wounded by the sexual abuse scandal. Together with Kim Shirk, Mary created and offered the Circle of Hope Support Group for adults impacted by individual and personal hurts involving our faith community, and that are seeking hope. Mary also offers her expertise and guidance to diocesan personnel who are supporting individuals and families in need of healing and reconciliation.

**Kim Shirk, MA, LPC, NCC**

*Counseling Coordinator*

Kim serves part-time as the diocesan Counseling Coordinator, an independent contractor partnering with the OCYP. She has worked in the mental/behavioral health care fields for over 25 years in a variety of clinical settings with much of her experience focusing on coping skills, expressive art, play, recreation, health and wellness. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Kansas in 1989 and her Masters in Counseling from Webster University in 2000. Kim is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Missouri, as well as a



Nationally Certified Counselor. She is a member of the American Counseling Association, and the Association for Creativity in Counseling. Kim has many years of experience in counseling victims of trauma to overcome their suffering and become resilient survivors

Kim coordinates with the Victim Advocate to provide victims and survivors counseling services by qualified and licensed professionals in their community. Kim serves the diocese by verifying counselor credentials, managing expectations of services and confidentially reviewing treatment progress. Kim coordinates directly with the counselors on requests and continued service. She is passionate about finding counselors that utilize evidenced-based

practices in their treatment to ensure victims receive the best and most effective treatment available.

*“When brutal deeds are enacted, it calls for heroic and radical forgiveness. Hatred, anger, and unwillingness to forgive only keep us crippled and bound by the evils that surround us. If we endure evil and do not allow it to conquer us, we will share in the victory of Jesus Christ, in the hidden life of the resurrection of Jesus.”*

—Abbot Gregory, Conception Abbey

VICTIM SERVICES INFO	
2013-2014	
VICTIMS SERVED	14
SESSIONS PROVIDED	48

**Safe Environment Training and Education**

In order to create the greatest safety net of protection for our parishes and schools, the OCYP must rely on the help of hundreds of dedicated employees and volunteers to serve and extensions of our office on the front line. We are grateful to local Safe Environment Coordinators (SEC's), and VIRTUS®, Circle of Grace and Praesidium Facilitators who provide countless hours of service to combat sexual abuse.



**Sherry Huffman**

In September this year, we welcome Sherry Huffman to the team as the full-time Safe Environment Program Coordinator. Sherry comes prepared with a wealth of training and compliance experience in the health care field. She is excited about the opportunity to use her expertise to help ensure the continued success of the many programs which will be entrusted to her care. Please welcome Sherry as she joins the efforts to help us remain diligent in protecting our children, youth and vulnerable adults.

In the past school year, we empowered children and youth to recognize and report abuse through two programs in our parishes and schools: 12,365 youth have been trained in the Archdiocese of Omaha's Circle of Grace or Praesidium's® Called to Protect for Youth curriculum in the past school year (2013-2014).

For adults, we conducted background checks on 2,362 employees, clergy and volunteers. 2,284 new employees, clergy and volunteers completed Protecting God's Children, joining the 26,425 adults in our diocese already trained.

We continue to thank everyone in our diocese who stands together to place the protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults as a top priority. Together we make a powerful difference.