



DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

A Time to Heal

A Letter from Bishop George W. Coleman to the clergy, religious, and laity of the Fall River Diocese

February 20, 2004

Dear Friends in Christ,

Next week we begin the season of Lent, a season in which we are called to embark on a spiritual journey of repentance and renewal. It is in this spirit in which I write to you on a topic that has brought much pain and anguish to the entire Catholic community.

The tragedy of clergy sexual abuse of minors has touched every diocese in the nation and affected in some way every Catholic.

The sinful actions of a few priests and the inadequate response of some bishops have caused serious harm to victims and to their families.

All of us in the Church have been profoundly shaken by this scandal. Many are left with conflicting feelings of hurt, embarrassment, betrayal, and even anger.

To those who have suffered abuse at the hands of anyone ministering in the name of the Fall River Diocese, and to their families, I extend as Bishop my most sincere apologies.

I offer to them my heartfelt prayers for healing and offer to them the help of the Church through its counseling programs and other supportive services.

In the past few years we have all come to understand how great and far-reaching is the damage caused by an incident of sexual abuse. This damage is compounded when the act is perpetrated by a priest.

I pledge my firm, unequivocal resolve to do all within my ability to prevent any occurrence of abuse to any child or young person by any priest, religious, employee, or volunteer ministering as a representative of this diocese.

The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, with which our diocese is fully compliant, was adopted by the U.S. bishops in June 2002 in response to the clergy abuse crisis. In the context of the *Charter* the bishops commissioned the John Jay School of Criminal Justice to conduct an unprecedented study to report the scope of sexual abuse of minors nationwide by Catholic clergy over the past 50 years. The findings of this national quantitative study are scheduled to be released next week.

At this time I wish to share with you this report on sexual abuse in the Diocese of Fall River. The statistical information was compiled for inclusion in the John Jay study. The report includes statistics on allegations of abuse that have been brought to the attention of the Diocese since 1954. It also includes information on settlements reached in abuse claims and how those settlements were funded.

This report also details how the Diocese has responded for over ten years to the problem of child abuse through its outreach to victims, its policies and procedures, and its prevention initiatives.

After being ordained as your Bishop several months ago, I realized that one of my immediate pastoral priorities would be to support this Diocesan community of faith on the

journey of healing so needed in the wake of the abuse scandal.

By sharing the information in this report, it is my hope that we will have a more complete understanding of how the Diocese has been affected by this troubling matter and the steps it has taken to address it.



The Fall River Diocese was confronted with the tragic realities of clergy sexual abuse with the case of former priest James Porter almost 12 years ago. Since that time, the implementation of policies and practices designed to safeguard children has been a priority. I can assure you this remains a priority today.

Our efforts in the area of sexual abuse response and prevention will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and improved where needed to ensure that we take all possible precautions to avoid any incident of abuse in our Diocese.

It is tragic that our Church has been so deeply wounded by the scourge of sexual abuse. It is a sin, an affront against the dignity of the human person, and a crime according to both Church and civil law. It is imperative that we all remain ever vigilant against its occurrence.

As we enter the season of Lent, I suggest that we look to Christ and the Church. The Vatican Council II teaches us: "Christ, 'holy, innocent, and undefiled,' knew nothing of sin, but came only to expiate the sins of the people. The Church, however, clasping sinners to her bosom, at once holy and always in need of purification, follows constantly the path of penance and renewal."

With our attention given to Christ and the Church, let us follow the path of penance and renewal by praying for our Church and all its members, especially for those harmed by sexual misconduct. Let us pray also for our priests. By far the vast majority of them have lived lives dedicated to serving God and His people.

In the short time I have been privileged to serve as your Bishop, I have received the promise of your many prayers. I want you to know that I am deeply grateful to you for them. Know that I will remember you in my prayers, and I ask that you continue to do the same for me.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Bishop of Fall River

Statistics of the Diocese of Fall River as reported to the John Jay study

A. Number of priests who served in the Diocese during the last 50 years:

Diocesan priests:	423
Religious priests serving in Diocese:	<u>930</u>
Total:	1,353

B. Since 1954 allegations of sexual misconduct involving minors have been made involving 32 priests.

<u>32</u>	or 2.365% of all priests
1,353	

None of these individuals are in active ministry; some in fact are deceased.

C. The number of claims:

Porter claims	131	or 60.65% of total claims made
Non-Porter claims	<u>85</u>	or 39.35% of total claims made
Total Claims:	216	

D. Occurrence of the incidents that comprise these claims:

Incidents that occurred prior to 1980	210
Incidents that occurred since 1980	<u>6</u>
Total claims	216

Please note that 90% of the above claims were not brought to the attention of the Diocese until after 1990.

E. Financial Settlements:

Porter claims	131	\$13,281,000.00	or 82.98% of total settlements
Non-Porter claims	85	<u>2,725,000.00</u>	or 17.02% of total settlements
Total settlements:		\$16,006,000.00	

F. Funding of financial settlements:

		Insurance Companies	Diocesan Funds
Porter claims:	131	\$ 5,770,000.00	\$ 7,511,000.00
Non-Porter claims:	85	<u>805,859.00</u>	<u>1,919,141.00</u>
		\$ 6,575,859.00	\$ 9,430,141.00
		or 41.08% of total	or 58.92% of total

G. Diocesan Funds Used in Settlements:

Like other non-profit entities, the Diocese uses fund accounting such that separate funds have been established that are designated or restricted for specific purposes. For example, there is a separate Catholic Charities Appeal Fund, a separate fund for Parish Savings Accounts, a separate fund for Perpetual Care Monies, etc. There are currently twenty-five of these separate funds. **None of these monies were used in the financial settlements of these claims. These funds remain separate and intact.** In addition to the designated and restricted funds, there is one undesignated fund. What comprises this undesignated fund? The proceeds from the sale of non-parish properties, unallocated investment income, and other non-designated or non-restricted monies would be credited to this account. Over the last fifty years, this fund had grown to more than \$11,000,000.00. These are the monies that were used to pay the Diocesan share of \$9,430,141.00 of these settlements.

Audit Finds Diocese in Compliance with Charter

The Fall River Diocese was found to be in compliance with the provisions of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in the *Report on the Implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, released by the U.S. Bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection on January 6, 2004.

The Charter, approved by the U.S. Bishops in June 2002, called for an audit in every diocese to monitor its compliance with the document. Independent auditors from the Gavin Group of Winthrop, Mass., conducted their audit of the Fall River Diocese from October 20-24, 2003.

Most of the procedures made mandatory for U.S. dioceses by the Charter were already in place in the Fall River Diocese since 1993.

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT STEPS HAS THE DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ABUSE?

For more than a decade now the Fall River Diocese has been a leader among dioceses nationwide in addressing the issue of sexual abuse of children.

In 1993, the Diocese implemented an extensive policy detailing steps to be taken in response to allegations of abuse of a minor by a cleric. A Review Board was established to serve as an advisory body in general matters concerning sexual misconduct and to serve as a monitoring and advisory board when an allegation is made against clergy. By policy, Review Board membership is composed of a credentialed mental health worker with expertise in child abuse cases; a civil lawyer; a canon lawyer; an adult survivor of child sexual abuse; a parent of a victim of sexual abuse; a priest with a parish assignment; and a layperson. One member is appointed by the Bishop to serve as his delegate and to chair the Board. The Bishop's Delegate is currently Mrs. Joanne Long.

A Sexual Abuse Unit was established by the Diocese within its Catholic Social Services agency in 1994 to expand diocesan efforts in response to abuse. Among the unit's first accomplishments was the development of procedures covering diocesan response to allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a diocesan employee/volunteer; sexual misconduct with a minor; physical abuse of a minor; and harassment of an individual. This unit, now called Child Protection, oversees abuse response and reporting, counseling and pastoral care, and prevention and training.

The Fall River Diocese was one of the first in the country in 1994 to require a mandatory CORI check on any person working or volunteering in a position with unsupervised access to children. Since that time the Diocese has had CORI checks processed on 22,123 persons.

WHAT DO THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE DIOCESE REQUIRE?

The Fall River Diocese is committed to keeping children safe. Its policies and procedures in place since 1993 are updated periodically, most recently in November 2003 at the direction of Bishop George W. Coleman. They cover all clergy, religious, employees, and volunteers involved with ministries of the Fall River Diocese, including parishes, schools, and agencies.

Key elements are:

- Mandatory reporting of suspected cases of child abuse to civil and Diocesan authorities.
- Offer of counseling and pastoral support for alleged victim and his/her family.
- Placement of alleged perpetrator on leave from ministry during investigation of allegation and permanent removal if allegation is found credible.
- Review by a predominantly lay Review Board of allegations made against clergy.
- Criminal background or CORI checks and abuse prevention workshops for clergy, employees, and volunteers who have unmonitored contact with children.

WHAT IF I AM AN ALLEGED VICTIM OF SEXUAL ABUSE?

If you or someone you know has been the victim of an incident of abuse by an agent of the Diocese of Fall River (priest, religious, employee or volunteer), the Diocese urges you to report the incident. Please contact Catholic Social Services at 508-674-4681. Tell the receptionist you need to report an incident of abuse; you will then be connected to the appropriate staff person of the Child Protection Unit.

ONCE AN ALLEGATION OF ABUSE IS RECEIVED BY THE DIOCESE, WHAT STEPS ARE TAKEN?

In the matter of an allegation of abuse of a minor, the Diocese files a Chapter 119, Section 51A report with the Massachusetts Department of Social Services. The allegation is also reported to the appropriate district attorney's office.

WHAT DOES THE DIOCESE DO FOR THE ALLEGED VICTIM?

The Diocese reaches out to the alleged victim to begin the process of pastoral healing. Appropriate and confidential counseling is offered to the alleged victim and his or her family. Catholic Social Services is available to provide professional counseling and/or to identify other qualified sources for assistance. The Diocese underwrites the cost for this service. Depending on the nature of the case, appropriate pastoral care is extended to the parish community and others.

WHAT IS BEING DONE BY THE DIOCESE TO PREVENT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT?

Candidates seeking admission to the seminary for the Diocese or to its Diaconate Program must undergo a thorough background review, a CORI check, psychological screening by professionals, and frequent evaluation by those involved in their formation.

Prospective diocesan and parish employees or volunteers who may have unmonitored access to children must attend an abuse awareness and prevention workshop conducted by Catholic Social Services. Attendance is documented. In the context of the workshop, each employee/volunteer must complete an informational questionnaire, which is to be kept current and on file by the entity or parish overseeing the position. Each employee/volunteer is provided with diocesan procedures regarding sexual and physical abuse of children and must acknowledge receipt of such in writing. Finally, each employee/volunteer must give consent by written signature for a CORI check to be processed by the Diocese on his or her background.

All priests, deacons, religious, employees and volunteers must sign a Code of Conduct as a condition of providing services to minors entrusted to the care of any diocesan entity.

Complete policies are available on the Diocesan Website:

www.fallriverdiocese.org

They have also been published in the February 20, 2004 edition of The Anchor, the Diocesan newspaper.

Policies & Procedures of the Fall River Diocese

PLEASE NOTE: The policies & procedures described below have been abridged for this publication. Complete policies and procedures are available for review by contacting Catholic Social Services or by accessing the Diocesan Website www.fallriverdiocese.org

Procedures to be followed when an Employee or Volunteer of the Church in the Diocese of Fall River is accused of Sexual Abuse of a Minor or Sexual Misconduct with a Minor.

GENERAL PROCEDURES

1. When there is reasonable cause to believe a child under the age of 18 is suffering serious physical or emotional injury resulting from sexual abuse inflicted upon him or her by a lay employee or volunteer, the person in charge, or their designee, of such institution or facility, Diocesan Director or Department, Agency, Apostolate, Program and Institution, as well as Pastor, within the Diocese where such alleged abuse has been reported shall immediately report such allegations to the Director of the Abuse Prevention Unit of Catholic Social Service. He or she will then notify the Moderator of the Curia and the Massachusetts Department of Social Services. If following an initial investigation by the Director of the Abuse Prevention Unit of Catholic Social Services, it is determined that the allegation of abuse has substance, the volunteer or employee is to be suspended with pay (if applicable) pending the outcome of the final investigation.

If the Massachusetts Department of Social Services finds the allegation to be supported and subsequently the alleged perpetrator is found not guilty by a court of law, a decision shall still then be made as to whether or not the employee/volunteer shall be reinstated. Such a decision concerning reinstatement shall be made after a consultation by the Moderator of the Curia with the head of a Diocesan Department, Agency, Apostolate, Program, or Institution, or the Pastor.

2. If the allegation of sexual abuse involves a cleric or an employee of Catholic Social Services, then the normal investigative procedures of the Bishop's Review Board shall apply and in all such cases the Bishop's Delegate shall be the designated agent to investigate/report the allegation both to the Massachusetts Department of Social Services and to notify the Moderator of the Curia.
3. The alleged perpetrator employee or volunteer will be notified of the allegations made against him/her, and given an opportunity to respond during the initial investigation process. Anyone affiliated with Catholic Social Services will be notified by the Bishop's Delegate.
4. The initial investigation involving non-clerics should include interviews with the accused employee or volunteer, the person making the complaint, and any witness(es). The interview will be extended to members of the alleged victim's family and with the alleged victim if permission is given by a parent or guardian to interview the minor, and it is deemed appropriate. When a young child is interviewed, it should be done by a recognized expert in this field. Interviews should be performed in person, but telephone interviews might be necessary in exceptional circumstances.
5. If after these initial interviews the allegation has been found to be initially credible, an oral report of the suspected child abuse or misconduct must then be given immediately to the Moderator of the Curia as described above in number 1.
6. The personnel file of any employee or volunteer against whom an allegation has been finally substantiated by the Massachusetts Department of Social Services is to be properly noted.
7. If an allegation of child sexual abuse or misconduct involves a parish employee or volunteer, the pastor should contact the family of the alleged victim and offer spiritual care and support, as his function is strictly pastoral in nature. Catholic Social Services will be available to provide confidential counseling and/or identify other resources for assistance.

Procedures to be followed when a Cleric or Religious Brother or Sister in the Diocese of Fall River is accused of Sexual Misconduct with a Minor.

The Diocese commits itself to the following action:

- There will be an immediate response to all allegations of sexual misconduct by a cleric or religious brother or sister with a minor. For allegations of such conduct made by a person who is an adult at the time the allegation is received by the Diocese, the response shall be made within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed thirty (30) days.
- If an initial review reveals that the allegation is credible, the cleric or religious brother or sister will be placed on administrative leave pending further investigation. Administrative leave involves the transfer of the residence of a cleric to another residence, the private celebration of Mass, and restriction of his celebration of the Sacraments. The alleged offender will not be permitted to celebrate Mass publicly, to wear clerical garb, or to present himself or herself as a priest or religious brother or sister. The Diocese will continue to pay the salary and benefits of a cleric while on administrative leave.
- Any suspected case of sexual misconduct with a minor will be reported to civil authorities.
- Confidential counseling will be offered to the alleged victim and his/her family.
- No cleric against whom a credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor has been made will be given any assignment in or by the Diocese of Fall River or be authorized to seek pastoral work outside the Diocese.

It should be noted here that both the law of our land and the law of our Church calls for the presumption of innocence. While every allegation will be investigated seriously and fairly, we must remember that an accusation does not mean that someone is guilty. Such a judgment can be made only after all parties are heard and the evidence is reviewed.

The procedures do not detail the processes that are found in the Canon Law of the Church. In order to appreciate the rights and obligations of the clergy in a more complete manner, reference needs to be made to the procedural and penal laws of the Church.

PROCEDURES.

1. A Review Board shall be established by the Bishop to serve as an advisory body in general matters concerning the issue of sexual misconduct and to serve as a monitoring and advisory board when a specific accusation of sexual misconduct by a cleric or religious brother or sister with a minor is made. The Board will have no less than 7, but no more than 10 members, at the Bishop's discretion. The members shall, at a minimum, include:
 - An appropriately credentialed mental health worker who has expertise in matters concerning child abuse;
 - A civil lawyer;
 - A canon lawyer;
 - A priest with a pastoral/parochial assignment;
 - An adult survivor of child sexual abuse;
 - A parent of a victim of sexual abuse; and
 - A lay person.

The members of the Review Board are appointed by the Bishop, for a term of five years, which can be renewed. The Review Board is composed of men and women, lay and clergy, who have (or gain) expertise in the area of child abuse.

2. The Bishop shall appoint a Delegate from among the members of the Review Board to serve as his representative in cases involving an accusation of sexual misconduct by a cleric or religious brother or sister with a minor. The Delegate will chair the Review Board. The Bishop is free to appoint a substitute Delegate as circumstances warrant. The Bishop's Delegate represents him in these matters. This person may be any member of the Review Team. For various reasons a substitute or alternate Delegate may be named to assume the role. It could be that the Delegate is not available at the time or that a particular case may call for a certain type of person being named by the Bishop, e.g. a woman rather than a man, someone who speaks a foreign language, etc.
3. Upon receipt of an allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor by a cleric or religious brother or sister, the Delegate (or a substitute Delegate) shall conduct a preliminary investigation and shall file a report with the Department of Social Services, if required. This initial review is expected to be completed within twenty-four to seventy-two hours of the receipt of an allegation involving a victim who is a minor. For allegations by adults who were minors at the time of the alleged act(s), the initial review is to be completed within two weeks of the allegation's receipt. If the cleric or religious brother or sister is a member of a religious order, his religious superior is to be notified and made part of subsequent steps in the process, with due regard for the requirements of canon law.
4. The initial review will ordinarily include interviews with the accused cleric or religious brother or sister, the person making the complaint, and any witnesses. The review may include interviews with members of the alleged victim's family and the alleged victim himself/herself (with a parent or guardian's consent if with a minor) and it is judged appropriate to do so.

The Delegate, and in certain limited circumstances, another individual, at the Delegate's direction, is to talk to the key people involved and as many others as he/she feels are warranted. The intent of the initial review is to clarify the nature of the claim. When a small child is interviewed, this is to be done only by a person with recognized expertise in this specialized field.
5. The accused cleric or religious brother or sister is to be advised of his/her right to retain independent legal and canonical counsel. He/she shall also be provided with a list of approved clerics or religious brothers or sisters appointed by the Bishop from which to choose a "support advocate", but not for the purposes of either actively participating in the proceedings or rendering civil or canonical law advice.
6. Upon receipt of an allegation, the Delegate shall notify the Review Board which shall meet within forty-eight hours of the completion of the initial review, when the alleged victim is a minor, and within a reasonable period of time upon completion of the initial review, when the alleged victim is no longer a minor. If the alleged victim is presently a minor, the Delegate shall immediately notify the proper civil authorities, as required under State Law.
7. If the Delegate, after receiving the results of the initial review, concludes that the accusation of sexual misconduct has some credibility then, by virtue of his executive power of governance, the Bishop may immediately place the accused cleric or religious brother or sister on immediate administrative leave, pending the results of

further investigation, including professional evaluation of the accused. The professional evaluation is to take place at a recognized treatment facility. Administrative leave does not carry with it any presumption of guilt. Temporary residence is to be provided by the Diocese with no contact with minors. The priest's or deacon's faculty to preach is removed and the priest's faculty to hear confessions is suspended and he is advised to celebrate Mass privately. If the cleric or religious brother or sister refuses to cooperate, the appropriate procedures of canon law shall be invoked. If after an investigation has been completed, the accusation is found to be without merit, the Diocese will assist with appropriate measures to respond to any harm done to the cleric's or religious brother's or sister's reputation and ministry, especially if the accusations were made public.

The Review Board is to give its recommendation to the Bishop as soon as possible. It is noted that administrative leave has no direct parallel in canon law, but it has proven to be a useful instrument to protect both the accused and the accuser. **It should be clear that administrative leave does not imply guilt but rather a need for time to pursue a serious accusation.** The cleric's or religious brother or sister's faculties are removed on a temporary basis. Finally, the evaluation of the cleric or religious brother or sister is to take place at a recognized treatment facility. Ordinarily this evaluation takes place over several days. If the accusation is without merit, it is important that any damage to the cleric's or religious brother's or sister's reputation and ministry be addressed.

When sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric is admitted or established after an appropriate process in accord with canon law, then for even a single act of sexual abuse of a minor, past, present, or future, the offending cleric will be permanently removed from ministry, not excluding dismissal from the clerical state if the case so warrants. In every case involving canonical penalties, the processes provided for in canon law shall be observed.

8. Appropriate and confidential counseling is to be offered to the alleged victim and his/her family. When necessary, the needs of the parish and wider community should be included in the response of the Review Board.
9. All applicable civil reporting laws are to be followed.

Any suspected case of child abuse involving an alleged victim who is a minor is to be reported to civil authorities by the Delegate. This step recognizes the legitimate right of the state to be involved in these cases. Allegations of sexual abuse of a minor received when the alleged victim is no longer a minor shall be reported to the office of the district attorney for the district where the alleged abuse occurred, when reasonable cause exists.
10. If the alleged misconduct is a matter of public record, the Diocesan Office of Communication shall issue a statement and serve as the ongoing liaison with the media. The members of the Review Board should not serve as spokespersons.
11. The alleged victim and family will be kept informed of the response of the Diocese through regular reports from the Review Board or its representative.
12. These written procedures are to be given to every incardinated cleric or religious brother or sister ministering in the Diocese of Fall River.
13. These procedures are to be reviewed on a yearly basis or as needed, by the Sexual Abuse Review Board and must be approved by the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Priests' Council.

(CONTINUED ON BACK)

(CONTINUED FROM INSIDE)

14. Anyone wishing to report an incident to the Bishop's Delegate should call Catholic Social Services at Fall River (508) 674-4681. Catholic Social Services shall immediately thereafter contact the Delegate.
15. The Board shall have no jurisdiction over cases of allegations involving a cleric, or religious brother or sister who, at the time of the Delegate's receipt of the allegation, has resigned or is deceased.

16. The investigation of religious brothers or sisters should devolve to their community, and the Diocese stands ready to refer the matter to the Review Board for its investigation if the religious community lacks procedures of its own to deal with this issue.
17. In the event that any of these procedures shall be determined to not be in compliance with the *Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing With Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons* of November 13, 2002, or any amendments or revisions thereto, then the Norms and not these policies shall govern.
-



Mrs. Arlene A. McNamee

*Catholic Social Services Director
Is Victim Assistance Coordinator*

As the Director of Catholic Social Services for the Fall River Diocese, Mrs. Arlene A. McNamee coordinates its Child Protection Unit. She is usually the first person to reach out, in the name

of the Diocese, to alleged victims of abuse. Her role is to listen to victims' stories, do the initial assessment, see that all reporting laws are followed, and arrange for victims to receive proper counseling or therapy.

Mrs. McNamee was among 10 Diocesan Victims' Assistance Coordinators nationwide cited as models for the job by independent auditors in their January 2004 national report on sexual abuse response audits of U.S. dioceses.

Along with her work in abuse response and prevention, she oversees Catholic Social Services initiatives in multiple areas, including counseling, housing, adoption and foster care, community organizing, and advocacy.

Before joining the Diocese in 1994, Mrs. McNamee was the Southeast Region Administrator for the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and before that, served for many years as Executive Director of New Bedford Child and Family Services.



Mrs. Joanne P. Long

*Former Probation Officer & Social Worker
is Bishop's Delegate to Review Board*

Mrs. Joanne P. Long is the Bishop's Delegate to the Diocesan Review Board. As Delegate, she is responsible for chairing the Review Board and representing the Bishop in cases

involving an accusation of sexual misconduct by a cleric or a religious brother or sister with a minor.

She was a social worker in the Welfare Department of the City of New Bedford before her appointment as the first female probation officer in the Adult Division of District Courts in Bristol County, where she served for several years. She retired as Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Third District Court, New Bedford.

Her efforts to help battered women throughout the course of her career were recognized with a citation by the New Bedford Y.W.C.A.

In retirement she is active on many boards of civic and religious organizations.



All Fall River Diocesan policies and procedures regarding sexual abuse response and prevention are available on the Diocesan Website: www.fallriverdiocese.org or by contacting Catholic Social Services, Post Office Box M, South Station, Fall River, MA 02724, Telephone **508-674-4681**.

Also available on the website is the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

For further information on the Child Protection Unit of Catholic Social Services, please contact **Mrs. Arlene McNamee**, Director, at **508-674-4681**.

For further information on the Diocesan Review Board, please contact **Mrs. Joanne Long**, Bishop's Delegate and Chairman, at **774-644-3077**.

To report a suspected incident of sexual abuse by any agent of the Fall River Diocese, please contact **Catholic Social Services** at **508-674-4681**.