



P.O. Box 423, Newton, MA 02464 \* 617-558-5252 \* Fax 617-558-0034 \* [www.votf.org](http://www.votf.org)

## **Parish Checklist**

### **Review of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People**

Answer questions with:      Yes    No    Doesn't apply

**...support groups for victims/survivors and others affected by abuse should be fostered and encouraged in every diocese/eparchy and in local parish communities. (Art. 1)**

Are you aware of any effort by the diocese to encourage support groups in your parish?

**This pastoral outreach by the bishop or his delegate will also be directed to faith communities in which the sexual abuse occurred. (Art. 1)**

If there has been any reported sexual abuse in your parish in the past, has the parish reached out to you?

**The procedures for those making a complaint will be readily available in printed form and will be the subject of periodic public announcements. (Art. 2)**

Are you aware of written procedures for making a complaint?

**Dioceses/eparchies will make clear to clergy and all members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons in positions of trust with regard to sexual abuse. (Art. 6)**

Has your parish distributed diocesan standards for ministerial behavior?  
(If you don't know, answer "No")

**Each diocese/eparchy will develop a communications policy that reflects a commitment to transparency and openness. (Art. 7)**

Do you believe that your diocese has been open and transparent regarding issues of clerical sexual abuse?

**They will cooperate with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children. (Art. 12)**

In your parish, have you been given the opportunity as a parent to receive education and training?

Are you aware of diocesan-provided sexual abuse prevention training for children in your parish?

\_\_\_\_\_ ...we do wish to affirm our concern especially with regard to issues related to effective consultation of the laity and the participation of God's people in decision making that affects their well-being.

(Conclusion)

As a member of the laity, do you feel that your parish has effectively consulted with the laity?

Has your parish given you a copy of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People?

In your opinion, is your parish in compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People?

PARISH AUDIT

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in response to the clerical sexual abuse crisis. Voice of the Faithful fully supports the Charter and every effort to prevent sexual abuse of our children.

We believe that it is necessary for all Catholics to be knowledgeable about the Charter and to take action to assure that the pertinent elements of the Charter are instituted and adhered to in every parish. In asking you to complete this Parish Audit, we advise you that the President of the USCCB encourages your input. In June 2003, Bishop Wilton Gregory wrote: "A little over a year ago the Bishops passed the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in which we recognize the necessity of having significant lay participation in assessing whether we are living up to what we pledge in the Charter."

Please answer the questions on the reverse side if this form. You may use your completed audit as a basis for discussion with your pastor. Voice of the Faithful is interested in knowing how your parish is complying with the Charter, so you are encouraged to share your completed audit with your Parish Voice Affiliate. So that VOTF can accurately identify compliance on a parish level, we ask that you give the name and location of your parish.

You are encouraged to copy this form and share it with other parishioners.

NAME OF PARISH \_\_\_\_\_

DIOCESE \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

The entire Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People can be read in English or Spanish at <http://www.usccb.org/ocyp/charter.htm>