

Audit Finds Diocese in Compliance with Charter for the Protection of Children and Young - 2003

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Two independent auditors spent September 20-24 reviewing the diocesan policy on the prevention of sexual abuse of minors by clergy

This is the second audit in as many years by the independent Gavin Group, commissioned to review all aspects of the Diocese of Cleveland's compliance with the

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

The auditors carefully assess diocesan policy and programs which have been implemented in these areas: to promote healing and reconciliation, to guarantee effective response to allegations of abuse of a minor, and to protect the faithful in the future.

The audit reported that the diocese reported all allegations of sexual abuse of a minor to public authorities since the last compliance audit in June of 2003. It has established clear and well-publicized standards of ministerial behavior, has fully implemented a safe environment education program, has not transferred any priest or deacon who has had a credible allegation of sexual abuse made against him to another ministerial assignment, and has conformed with all of the other standards required by the Charter.