

CHAPTER SIX

2007 Recommendations

1. STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

The structures and programs required by the Charter have been established, as the audits confirm. We must now move to assessing the effectiveness of those structures and programs while streamlining the audit process.

Recommendation: Audit documents should be reexamined with a view toward assessing the *Charter* structures and programs as well as combining some of the concepts of the audit process. This could result in a simplification of the process for both those audited and the auditors.

2. STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

Research suggests that one in five priests serving in the United States is an international priest. In 2003 the USCCB Committee on Migration issued *Guidelines for Receiving Pastoral Ministers in the United States*, a document that was developed in response to this reality and that outlines components of an orientation program for international priests. Providing sufficient orientation for these priests is a challenge for dioceses and eparchies. Offering safe environment training, conducting background evaluations, and educating international priests to legal standards regarding sexual contact with minors are necessary components of any orientation program.

Additionally, during the 2007 audit period, six of the twelve credible allegations about persons who were still minors were made against international priests.

Recommendation: That dioceses/eparchies take all actions possible to conduct background evaluations of international priests, provide safe environment training in appropriate languages, and review with these priests the legal standards that define sexual abuse of minors in the local civic jurisdiction.

3. STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

The 2007 audit data show abuse rising and peaking between 1960 and 1980. These are the same patterns shown by the Nature and Scope Study in 2004 and by every prior annual study by CARA. This makes even more imperative the completion of the Causes and Context Study, which is not yet fully funded.

Recommendation: The total budget for the Causes and Context Study is \$2.6 million, less than one half of 1% of the amount spent by the American dioceses on the abuse crisis in 2007. The

Conference, individual dioceses, and any Catholics interested in the *Charter* should consider a contribution to close the funding gap, which is now slightly less than \$1 million.