

Executive Summary

First External Audit of the Ramsey County/Archdiocese Settlement Agreement

On December 17, 2015, the Ramsey County Attorney's Office (RCAO) and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis ("Archdiocese") agreed to a Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement"). An overarching goal of the Agreement is for the Archdiocese to foster a culture of vigilance within the Archdiocese for the prevention of sexual abuse and the promotion of ongoing assistance for victims/survivors of abuse. The Agreement requires the Archdiocese to establish an organizational structure capable of addressing the core components and achieving the particular requirements of the Agreement. It also provides for the Archdiocese to report to the court regarding Archdiocesan safe environment practices in addition to expanded oversight by the Archbishop, Board of Directors, Audit and Risk Management Committee, Ministerial Review Board, and the Director of Ministerial Standards and Safe Environment.

The Agreement defines terms and sets forth explicit steps that must be completed by the Archdiocese within set time-frames. The Agreement covers a wide range of areas and includes requirements addressing:

- Oversight and Accountability
- Safe Environment Compliance Standards
- Policies and Procedures
- Broad Reporting Requirements
- Background Checks
- Training for Clergy, Employees, and Volunteers
- Communications
- Ministerial Review Board Role and Responsibilities
- Victim Assistance

To determine the level of compliance with the specific requirements set forth in Agreement, the Archdiocese is required to undergo three fiscal year compliance audits performed by an outside firm. In consultation with the RCAO, the Archdiocese engaged an external auditing firm, Stonebridge Business Partners of Rochester New York, to conduct the first independent audit, which covers the initial 18 months of the Agreement ending on June 30, 2017.

After conferring with both the RCAO and the Archdiocese, Stonebridge completed its audit in accordance with the procedures and methodologies determined by the auditors in accordance with the attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Stonebridge conducted the on-site review in Minnesota during the week of August 21, 2017. Stonebridge provided its audit report to the Archdiocese and RCAO on January 3, 2018.

During the course of the audit, compliance with each of the requirements set forth in the Agreement was tested. The audit process included:

- Interviewing employees of the Archdiocese, representatives of the RCAO, victims/survivors of clergy sexual abuse, members of the Ministerial Review Board, the chairperson and other representatives of the Archdiocesan Board of Directors, the chairperson of the Audit and Risk

Management Committee, pastors, deacons, safe environment coordinators, business administrators and school representatives.

-Reviewing the website

-Analyzing policies

-Examining hundreds of other documents including reports, memoranda, correspondence, recommendations, meeting minutes, rosters, clergy files, seminarian files, volunteer records, background checks, code of conduct acknowledgement forms, training documents, safe environment publications, public disclosures, law enforcement notifications.

-Obtaining and examining records from 15 parishes, 9 schools and 1 seminary

-Conducting on-site visits at 5 parishes and 2 schools.

Based upon its review, Stonebridge found the Archdiocese to be in substantial compliance with the Agreement.

A copy of the full audit report, which includes its procedures and methodologies and specific findings, can be found at: www.archspm.org/