



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER MEMORANDUM

To: Diocesan Community
From: Reverend Edward J. Arsenault
Ms. Diane Murphy Quinlan
Date: February 13, 2008
RE: Agreement – Diocese of Manchester and State of NH

Over the last five years, we have all worked diligently together to build a culture of awareness about the abuse of minors and one of safety for children and young people. The heroes in this effort have been pastors, principals, staff, and volunteers in the parishes, schools, camps and institutions in the Diocese of Manchester. We all also owe a debt of gratitude to the Parish Outreach staff from N.H. Catholic Charities who have trained thousands of people to raise awareness, to teach our state law about mandatory reporting, and to be committed to building and maintaining a safe environment.

As you may recall, the 2002 Agreement between the Diocese of Manchester and the State of NH provided that on or before December 31, 2007, the Attorney General's Office would request a status conference with the Superior Court. The Attorney General's office did file a timely request for a status conference, and the Merrimack County Superior Court held the conference on February 11, 2008. We wanted you to know the outcome of this conference.

A proposed order was submitted for the court's signature to which both the Attorney General's office and the Diocese agreed. The attorneys for the parties made brief presentations in support of the proposed order, and the judge agreed to issue the order. The order provides that the Office of the Attorney General, through its auditors, KPMG, will conduct a fourth and final audit of the Diocese of Manchester, and a report will be issued to the public no later than January 31, 2009. The Attorney General's office will notify the court of the date of the release of this final audit report. If neither the Attorney General's office nor the Diocese files a motion to extend the terms of the Agreement within thirty (30) days following notice to the Court of the release of the fourth annual audit report, the Court will close its file and will relinquish its continuing jurisdiction over the matter.

Finally, our office has not yet received the third annual audit report (2007), but we will, of course, notify you when the report is issued. Bishop McCormack has already expressed his confidence that the third annual audit report as well as the fourth annual report will demonstrate our commitment to ensure that our ongoing child safety practices and procedures are a permanent part of our diocesan policies.

As always, feel free to contact either of us with any questions, and we both thank you for your commitment to this important work of the Church.