



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

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Diocese of Manchester Protecting God's Children 2007 Training Effectiveness Report

Since 2001, the Protecting God's Children training workshop has been a mainstay of the Diocese of Manchester's safe environment program. Manchester was among the first dioceses in the country to initiate special training for those working with minors. These free workshops train adults on how to protect children by making participants aware of the signs of child sexual abuse, the methods and means by which offenders commit abuse, the reporting procedures for suspected abuse, and five easy steps one can take to prevent child sexual abuse. Two videos are the centerpiece of the training: *A Time to Protect God's Children* and *A Plan to Protect God's Children*. The session also includes a discussion about the Diocese of Manchester's Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal Policy for the Protection of Children and Young People and the standards for working with minors contained in the *Serving Christ, Serving Others Code of Ministerial Conduct*. All adults in ministry who regularly work with children (clerics, religious, employees, and volunteers) are required to attend the workshop.

At the conclusion of the workshops, participants are asked to complete a formal evaluation. This evaluation, which was developed by a Sociology professor at Saint Anselm College, assists the Diocese of Manchester in determining how well the program addresses the critical issues presented in the training. Evaluations obtained from workshops that occurred between May 15, 2007 and September 15, 2007, at locations throughout the State of New Hampshire were sent to Saint Anselm College for tabulation and the development of a report to the diocese.

The report produced by Saint Anselm College was based on a total of 1,306 evaluations. These evaluations represent responses by 417 males and 887 females with 2 non replies to gender.

Below are some important highlights:

- 94.5% or 1,234 respondents were in either strong agreement or agreement that they benefited from the workshop.
- 90.8% or 1,186 respondents were in either strong agreement or agreement that they learned about New Hampshire laws concerning reporting to the New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families.
- 89.6% or 1,170 respondents were in either strong agreement or agreement that they were now better informed about New Hampshire laws concerning child abuse.
- 98.6% or 1,288 respondents were in either strong agreement or agreement that they believe that it is an obligation to report suspicions of child abuse to the proper authorities.

The Diocese of Manchester created and implemented a program that performed background checks, and trained and supervised the more than 17,000 employees and volunteers that serve the Catholic Community in New Hampshire. The effectiveness of the Commitment of substantial effort and resources to the program can be measured by the high levels of compliance with Diocesan Screening and Educational policies and the equally high evaluation of effectiveness by the participants in the educational programs. The fact that no reports of sexual abuse of minors have been received since the programs were instituted provides further encouragement to the many people who have worked so hard to make this possible.