

## *On-Going* for Kids Office for Protection of Children & Youth



October-December 2009

# A New School Year... A New Beginning

To all of our students, parents, staff and faculty...Welcome Back! As we embark on a new school year, we would like to take this opportunity to update you on accomplishments over the past year that emphasize the ongoing efforts of the Archdiocese of Chicago to protect and safeguard our children and young people in our parishes, schools and programs.

**Fingerprinting** – On July 27, 2006, the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act was signed into law by the federal government. This Act required the U.S. Attorney General to give governmental social services agencies with child protection responsibilities, child welfare agencies, public and private elementary and secondary schools, and state and local agencies access to the FBI national criminal history record information. On May 27, 2007, Illinois Senate Bill 143 was approved by the state legislature. This Bill requires that all school employees of state recognized non-public schools, hired after July 1, 2007, undergo a fingerprint based criminal history record check with the Illinois State Police and the FBI. The Office of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Chicago immediately mobilized efforts to ensure that we were in compliance with the law. To date, the Archdiocese of Chicago has fingerprinted over 4000 new teachers, administrators, faculty and school staff.

**Online Criminal Background Check** –The Archdiocese of Chicago continues to conduct online criminal background checks on all lay employees, clergy and volunteers who work with children. This past year we have processed over 10,000 applications - in total over 85,000 since 2003.

**Mandated Reporter Training** – In the Fall of 2006 the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth began offering Mandated Reporter training to all Archdiocese of Chicago employees who are mandated by state law to report suspected child abuse and neglect. In October 2006, we began training all principals, administrators and

clerics. In August 2007, we began training our school staff, religious education staff, youth ministers, and others in positions of trust. To date, the Archdiocese of Chicago has trained over 11,000 people.

**Safe Environment Training for Adults** - Virtus/Protecting God's Children – The Archdiocese of Chicago has utilized the Virtus adult-based instruction training program since the fall of 2003. During the last year we have trained over 10,000 lay employees, clergy and volunteers - in total over 85,000 since 2003.

**Safe Environment Training for Children/Young People** – All of our schools continue to provide safe environment training for our children. Many elementary schools are using the Child Lures training program in addition to having expert speakers give presentations on bullying, safety and more.

At the same time, religious education programs also use Child Lures for safe environment instruction. Many of our secondary schools have brought in expert speakers to discuss topics such as harassment, boundaries, self-esteem and more.

As we embark on a new school year, the Safe Environment Office will continue to research and ascertain additional curriculums and speakers that can be utilized for safe environment instruction for our children and young adults.

We continue to work very hard to ensure the safety of all children and young people.

Womazetta Jones, M.A.  
Director  
Safe Environment Office

# Office of Catholic Schools

## We Make A Difference

I was first plopped into a classroom in Quincy, Illinois, at age 21, knowing just enough to stay ahead of my fifth grade students. Two years later, it was off to another mission and grade seven, then finally off to various roles in Catholic high schools. Even with further education and experience, each subsequent August held the excitement and promise of the first one so long ago: these are my kids, this is our world of faith and learning that we will create together.

Like teachers, parents, and administrators across the Archdiocese of Chicago, my first day commitment to students remains a conscious choice. Almost twenty years ago, I almost "jumped ship." Allowed to study after a successful high school merger, I began doctoral studies in theology and the social sciences; hoping to intern as a clinical psychologist, I studied boundary issues, abuse, and power...and the role they play in social systems. When the stated needs of my religious community called me back to administration after a year, I was disappointed - until August.

It was only after students filled the school on the heels of the first faculty

meeting that I deeply and finally realized the power of the system of the school to transform. Rather than working with 20-40 clients a week, an educator can effectively serve hundreds, creating a system of proactive health and encouraging healing as it addresses the roots of systemic and personal abuse. Protecting our young is not luck: it is carefully structured - based on school people, school policy, a solid network, and the embedded belief that every child is precious. Indeed, in the best of schools, we are the face of Christ for each other.

In our Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago, there are many demands on our time and expertise, but the core remains: faith, study, community. Parents and young people engage with our professionals who are called to be grounded in the reality of God's love. It is the dignity of each person which creates the imperative called to by the Charter which created the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth. We open our hearts even as we tighten the safety net. A key role is played by our Assistant Superintendents when abuse is known or suspected as they

encourage our mandated reporters and navigate the system with prudence, speed, and sensitivity.

Abuse is every school's nightmare. Each difficult situation leads to hard questions asked with an ear to the truth. OPCY policies and personal support for all involved helps keeps the process on track and transparent. Our call is to halt the abuse, provide support, and counter warped systems that allow abuse to fester. Every year, we recommit ourselves to new beginnings, to Jesus' love for children (and those that care for them), and a brutal honesty. We work to create communities of life, even as we appear to drown in society's disregard for human dignity and the increasing administrative demands on us.

Nevertheless, our schools still rock....and we still believe we make a difference.

After all, it's August. The kids are coming.

Sr. M. Paul McCaughey, O.P.  
*Superintendent*  
Office of Catholic Schools



## Upcoming Trainings and Events

### Virtus /Protecting God's Children Adult Training

New sessions posted weekly. To view schedule go to [www.archchicago.org](http://www.archchicago.org) and access the Virtus link under Protecting Children.

Online Pre-Registration is required. No walk in's. Sessions will begin at the scheduled time. Late arrivals will not be admitted. No children allowed.

### Site Administrator Training

October 6, 2009

1:00pm-3:30pm, Cardinal Meyer Center, 3525 S. Lake Park Avenue, Chicago, IL

January 20, 2010

9:00am-11:30am, Archbishop Quigley Center, 835 N. Rush Street, Chicago, IL (No parking available)

March 2, 2010

9:00am-11:30am, Cardinal Meyer Center, 3525 S. Lake Park Avenue, Chicago, IL

**Pre-Registration is required. You must register within 7 days of the training selected. No walk in's. Sessions will begin at the scheduled time. Late arrivals will not be admitted. No children allowed. To register email Regina Robinson at [rrobinson@archchicago.org](mailto:rrobinson@archchicago.org). or call 312-534-5254. Seating is limited**

### Mandated Reporter Training

October 6, 2009

4:00pm-6:30pm, St. Theresa of Avila, 1950 N. Kenmore, Chicago, IL

October 9, 2009

9:30am-12pm, Francis Xavier Warde School, 751 N. State, Chicago, IL (No parking available)

October 13, 2009

4:00pm-6:30pm, Seton Academy, Suder Hall, 16100 Seton Rd, South Holland, IL

October 28, 2009

4:00pm-6:30pm, St. Patrick, 15020 Wadsworth Road, Wadsworth, IL

November 3, 2009

4:00pm-6:30pm, St. Mary of the Angels, School Auditorium, 1850 N. Hermitage Avenue, Chicago, IL

November 5, 2009

4:00pm-6:30pm, Marion Catholic High School, Leadership Center, 700 Ashland Avenue, Chicago Heights, IL

November 9, 2009

4:00pm-6:30pm, St. Gerald School, 9320 S. 55th Court, Oak Lawn, IL (Not handicap accessible)

November 9, 2009

4:00pm-6:30pm, St. Patrick High School, Lowell I Stahl Cultural Center, 5900 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL

November 12, 2009

4:00pm-6:30pm, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin School, 9250 W. 167th Street, Orland Hills, IL

November 17, 2009

4:00pm-6:30pm, Christ the King Jesuit College Prep, 116 N. LeClaire, Chicago, IL

**To properly accommodate participants, registration must be received at least 7 business days prior to the scheduled training. Seating is limited. Walk-ins will not be allowed to attend the training. Because of the content of the material, sessions will begin on time and late arrivals will not be admitted. Due to the subject matter, no minors under the age of 18 will be permitted to attend. To register email Regina Robinson at [rrobinson@archchicago.org](mailto:rrobinson@archchicago.org). or call 312-534-5254. Seating is limited**

### Virtus Facilitators Training

November 13-14, 2009

For more information contact Carolyn Perz at [cperz@archchicago.org](mailto:cperz@archchicago.org) or call 312-534-5388

# USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People



The past two months I have been auditing parishes across the Archdiocese to determine how effective we, the Church of Chicago, have been at institutionalizing the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. I can attest to the size of the Archdiocese by the miles I have spent in the car. I have been in the country. Did you know that cows graze on acreage adjoining St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish in Mundelein? I have been in parishes in the city located near busy expressways. I was thrilled by the commitment of parishes that have embraced protecting children and challenged by parishes that are tired of the Charter and its requirements.

So, tired of the Charter? Tired of hearing about clergy sexual abuse? Tired of all the Charter requirements for which the archdiocese is audited for compliance? Well, maybe it is time for us to refocus. Why do we do background checks, learn about the

behaviors of sex offenders, sign the Code of Conduct, complete the CANTS form and, for some, attend Mandated Reporter Training? We do it for the children. For when it is all said and done, that is the reason for our efforts: to bring victims-survivors healing and reconciliation and to create a safe environment for children.

I believe that what the Church is doing to reach out to victims-survivors of clergy sexual abuse and keeping children safe is changing the culture of the Church and, with continued diligence, it will change the culture of society. A bit ambitious you say? Maybe, but consider the following:

- The US Church has trained more than 1.7 million clergy, educators, employees and volunteers in parishes on how to create safe environments and

- prevent child sexual abuse.
- The US Church has prepared more than 5.7 million children to recognize abuse and protect themselves.
- The US Catholic Church has run criminal record checks on more than 1,500,000 volunteers and employees, 163,700 educators, 51,000 clerics and 4,950 candidates for ordination.

These accomplishments deserve to be widely known and expanded by our ongoing commitment. We are changing our environment, inside and outside the Church, to one in which children are safer. With that refocus, may we all be refreshed in our efforts and given hope that all of our work is worth every moment.

Jan Slattery  
Director

Office for the Protection  
of Children and Youth

## To report allegations of child abuse directly to civil authorities contact:

### Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

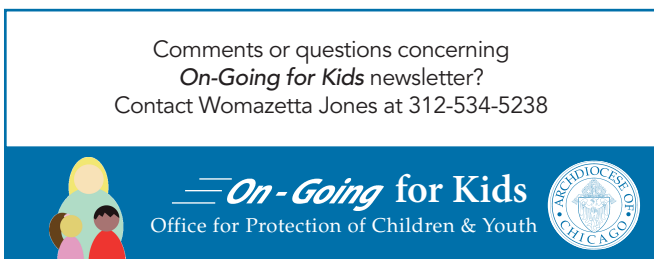
In Illinois call 1-800-25-ABUSE or 1-800-252-2873;  
Outside of Illinois call 217-524-2606;  
TTY 1-800-358-5117

**Cook County States Attorney's Office**  
contact, Shauna Boliker, Chief of the Sex Crimes Division,  
1-773-869-6492;

**Lake County States Attorney's Office**  
contact, Patricia Fix, Chief of the Felony Trial Division  
1-847-377-3000;

To report allegations of sexual abuse of minors by a priest or deacon, lay employee, and/or volunteer to the Archdiocese of Chicago contact:  
Leah McCluskey, 1-312-534-5205 or 1-800-994-6200.

Comments or questions concerning  
**On-Going for Kids** newsletter?  
Contact Womazetta Jones at 312-534-5238



## Archdiocese of Chicago Office for the Protection of Children and Youth

P.O. Box, 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690 - 1979

Director, Jan Slattery, 312-534-5319

### Office of Assistance Ministry

Director, Matt Hunnicutt  
312-534-8267 or 1-866-534-4528

Assistant Director, Mayra Flores, 312-534-8256

### Safe Environment Office

Director, Womazetta Jones, 312-534-5238

### Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review

Director, Leah McCluskey, 312-534-5205  
or 1-800-994-6200

Office Manager, Carolyn Perz, 312-534-5388

Main Number: 312-534-5254  
Fax: 312-751-8307