

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office of the Archbishop

Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

MEMORANDUM

To: Auxiliary Bishops
Priests and Deacons
Men and Women Religious
Catholic School Leadership
Administrative Staff
Archdiocesan Employees

From: Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

Date: February 14, 2006

Re: Policy Changes to Provide for the Safety and Protection of Children

In order to better provide for the safety and protection of children, I have given Jimmy M. Lago, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Chicago, the responsibility to ensure that the Archdiocese deals more effectively, comprehensively and promptly with allegations of sexual abuse of minors by clergy. This appointment is effective immediately.

In this new role, Mr. Lago will oversee the efforts of assistance ministry, legal counsel, vicars for priests, the professional responsibility administrator, human resources, and anyone else who might be involved in or relevant to an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor. He will also recommend disciplinary actions, if called for, in cases where a policy or practice is violated. Jimmy has already begun a process to revise Archdiocesan policies where appropriate. This new position is necessary because of the complexity of responsibilities and the sometimes uncertain information that has to be better shared.

As both a social services professional and a parent, Mr. Lago is uniquely qualified by training and experience to undertake this role. An experienced child advocate who has been associated with the Archdiocese of Chicago since 1976, he is passionate about the safety and welfare of children and young people. He currently serves on the Office of the Inspector General of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Service's Ethics Commission. Earlier in his career, Jimmy played a role in the legislative passage and subsequent implementation of Illinois' Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act. Jimmy has shown his credibility and independence during the last four years by authoring the 10-year report of the Archdiocese regarding misconduct in 2003.

I offer my support and prayers to Jimmy as he undertakes this additional responsibility and I ask for the cooperation and prayers of all concerned. Thank you for all you do in the service of the Church.