



Statement regarding today's national release of 2005 independent audit results

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester participated in the 2005 audits of dioceses/eparchies in the United States conducted by the Gavin Group, an independent firm located in Boston. Auditors found the Diocese in full compliance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

The Diocese of Rochester also was found to be compliant in two previous audits, in 2003 and 2004.

"The findings of the Gavin Group are a welcome confirmation of our efforts to make the Church a place where all people, especially children, teen-agers and vulnerable adults, are safe," said Bishop Matthew H. Clark. "Our efforts continue: We have provided safe-environment training to more than 15,000 employees and volunteers throughout the 12-county Diocese. We have a Review Board of well-trained professionals in pertinent fields. Our outreach to victims is on-going."

Bishop Clark added, "Even as we constantly strive to improve our diocesan programs, we also seek to raise the consciousness of our larger community to the pervasive societal issue of sexual abuse -- an intolerable problem that our nation must work to eradicate through education, firm enforcement of laws and constant diligence."

Editors: The wording below may be used in your coverage.

"If you have been a victim of sexual abuse, you should contact the appropriate civil authorities. To contact the Diocese for assistance, please call: Barbara Pedeville, at (585) 328-3210, ext. 1215, or 1-800-388-7177, ext. 1215."