

Sexual Abuse Policy Coordinator's Report

2021 Annual Assembly, Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania

Key Considerations:

- More than 200 candidates have been processed in the Sterling Volunteers system; thank you.
- One hundred percent (100%) of active clergy in the Major Orders are current on their background checks.
- All those serving in the Minor Orders (subdeacons, readers, cantors, etc.) who were listed on the 2021 Parish Information Update Forms have been verified and have the status of “eligible.”
- Many candidates have recently past or are approaching the end of the Archdiocesan-mandated three-year period since their last check and should expect a renewal invitation via email if they have not gotten one already. New and renewal background checks can be processed by phone as well.
- You can also call or text me anytime at (814) 321-4473 for answers to your questions, to check on your parish's status, to send background checks to candidates, etc.
- As church schools and youth groups return from a pandemic hiatus, please make sure all your teachers have received and completed a check through Sterling Volunteers.
- A too-common response on PIU forms is that certain background checks or policies are not necessary because “my parish doesn't have any children.” If we want God to bless and add daily to our churches those who are being saved (*Acts 2:47*) it is essential that we perform this due diligence *before* children arrive at our parishes! Don't expect your parish to grow if you are not in compliance.

Annual Policies, Standards, and Procedures (PSP) Report to the OCA

In the interest of full disclosure and to encourage 100% parish compliance, these are the metrics that the Archdiocese must report to the Holy Synod each year:

- **Received Reports** (% of parishes that have submitted the PIU form) — **76%** [29 of 38; *parishes that have not submitted in 2021: Altoona, Carnegie, Colver, DuBois, Irvona, Madera, McKees Rocks, Steubenville, Urey*].
- **Received Guidance Percentage** (% of parishes and monasteries that have received the PSP): **100%**.
- **Adoption Documentation Percentage** (% of parishes that have formally adopted the PSP in their minutes): **87%** [33 of 38; *parishes that have not documented the PSP: Altoona, Colver, Homestead, Irvona, Madera*].
- **Ordained Background Check Percentage** (% of parishes that have background checks for clergy and minor orders): **100%**.
- **Youth Worker Background Check Percentage** (% of parishes that have implemented the screening process for all those with more than an incidental contact with minors): **62%** [11 of 18; *parishes that reported “no”:* Altoona, Ambridge, Belle Vernon, Colver, Curtisville, Irvona, Jeannette, Madera; *parishes that reported “not applicable”:* Black Lick, Carnegie, Charleroi, Donora, DuBois, Homestead, Lyndora, Masontown, McKees Rocks, Mingo Junction, Monessen, Monongahela, New Salem, Osceola Mills, Portage, Steubenville, Urey, Vintondale, West Brownsville, Wolf Run].
- **Supervision Policy Percentage** (% of parishes that have implemented the general supervision and “two adult” policy or, when not possible, have compiled with the open door policy as described in the PSP): **73%** [19 of 26; *parishes that reported “no”:* Allison Park, Altoona, Colver, Curtisville, Irvona, Madera; *parishes that reported “not applicable”:* Black Lick, Charleroi, Donora, Lyndora, Mingo Junction, Monessen, Monongahela, Portage, Steubenville, Urey, Vintondale, West Brownsville, Wolf Run.]
- **Youth Work Training Accomplished** (percentage of all required individuals working with youth who have taken the mandatory sexual abuse prevention training every three years): **0%**. [I recommend we budget for Stewards of Children virtual training sessions to be added as a line item in the next fiscal year's budget at \$10 per person multiplied by ~45 active clergy = \$450.]

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Alexander Cadman

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