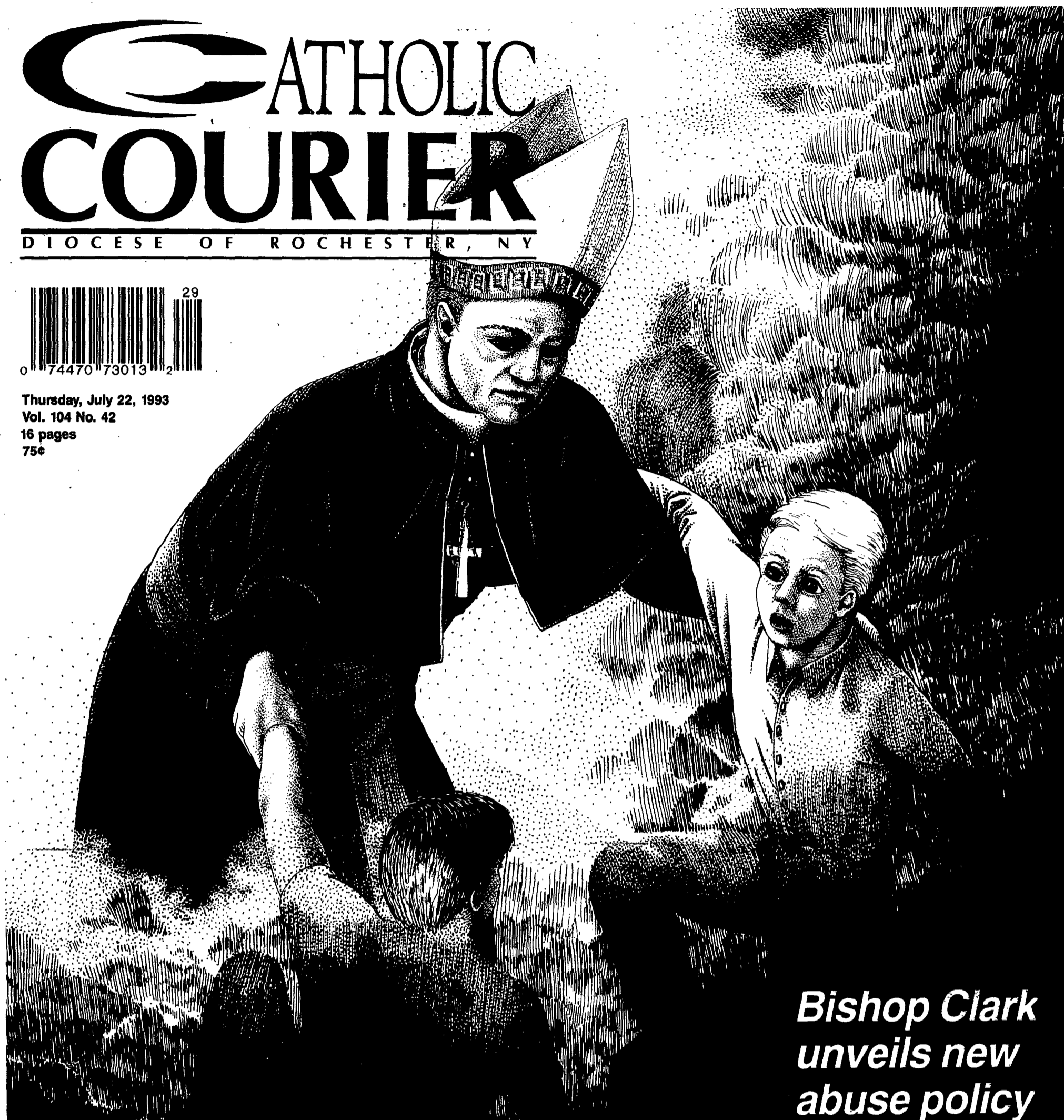


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New committee is taking steps toward confronting pedophilia

By Catholic News Service

NEW ORLEANS — The U.S. Catholic bishops took a major step toward confronting clergy sex abuse last month by forming a new committee with a sweeping mandate to deal with all aspects of the issue.

Bishop John F. Kinney of Bismark, N.D., was named chairman of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse. The committee — announced in New Orleans during the conference's national meeting June 17-19 — also includes four other bishops, an archbishop and a cardinal.

Shortly after the new committee was announced, the bishops also revealed that they had received a letter from Pope John Paul II announcing that in May he had formed a joint committee of Vatican and U.S. experts to study church legal procedures for dealing with sexually abusive

priests.

The bishops' committee announced June 17 will examine the issue of sexual abuse by priests and church workers, and advise the NCCB on issues relating to sexual abuse. It will also examine broader issues of sexual abuse throughout American society.

Bishop Kinney explained that a "preliminary list" of the committee's job would include recommending actions by the NCCB to help victims, to deal with priest-abusers, to screen seminarians, and to assess therapy, evaluation and reassignment issues.

"By the time our committee sunsets," he said, "I want to make sure that all of us bishops understand the depth and the seriousness, the pain and the agony of this problem and why it strikes at the very heart of the church's trust level and credibility level."

He said people's "shock and outrage" does not come primarily from priests violating their own teachings on sexual morality, "as serious as that

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Bishop Clark unveils new abuse policy

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — The Diocese of Rochester has implemented a revised policy for handling charges of sexual abuse of minors by priests and deacons.

That policy outlines the manner in which the diocese will process accusations, including telephone numbers individuals can call, intake personnel to speak with the individuals and an advisory team of professionals to evaluate allegations and make recommendations for responses to Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

The revised policy was announced by Bishop Clark in a letter dated July 1, 1993.

As part of that policy — which was announced in parish bulletins July 17 and 18 — Bishop Clark named Father Robert P. Ring, director of Priest Personnel, as his delegate to coordinate the policy and to head the advisory team of

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