

# Donors question abuse-suit costs

NAPLES, Fla. (CNS) — A group of major donors to Catholic organizations has urged dioceses to disclose how much money they have spent on child sex-abuse cases or risk losing the confidence of Catholics.

Greater financial transparency is necessary as litigations mount and some church leaders talk of possible bankruptcies, said the board of directors of Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities, known as FADICA, during the group's Jan. 24-25 meeting in Naples.

At the meeting, board members and donors affiliated with FADICA

also heard several speakers criticize the lack of lay input in choosing bishops and the professional quality of some of the lawyers, media consultants and psychologists working for dioceses.

The FADICA board praised the Chicago and Baltimore archdioceses and several dioceses for having already released amounts spent on sex-abuse cases.

Frank Butler, FADICA president, expressed hope that these examples "will influence the decisions of the nation's Catholic bishops to end the practice of financial secrecy surrounding this distressing chapter in church history."

The vast majority of the 177 Latin-rite dioceses in the United States are still without disclosure, said a FADICA press release about the meeting.

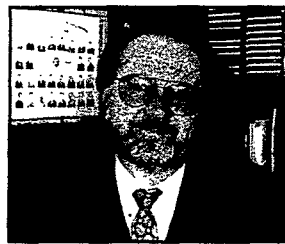
Last November, FADICA and the Gallup Organization released a national poll of churchgoing Catholics showing that 65 percent of respondents agreed that the church should be more financially accountable while 68 percent favored an annual independent audit of dioceses with the results made public.

Overall, 64 percent of the respondents said the bishops had done a "bad job" in dealing with the problem of clergy sex abuse of minors. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.2 percent.

FADICA praised support for financial disclosure by the newly created Office of Child and Youth Protection of the USCCB.

Butler said the 16-member board unanimously approved a resolution supporting the work of the office and the National Review Board created by the bishops to oversee implementation of the bishops' policies on child abuse.

## Thoughts to Consider



**EDWIN SULEWSKI**  
Funeral Director

### How can I help someone who is grieving?

You can help in a number of special ways. Through reaching out and offering support in the form of listening and presence you will help a great deal. Ask your friend how they are doing. Mention the deceased by name and allow the bereaved to continue discussion about the deceased if they wish. Many bereaved report feeling isolated. You can help by including them in your social groups. Contact with the grieving is most important during the period right after the death and in the three or four months following when the bereaved feel especially isolated. Reach out and make your presence felt.

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## CLARIFICATION

A story about a new teacher-mentoring program, which appeared in the Jan. 30 edition of the *Catholic Courier*, mentioned that the program is housed in the former Ss. Peter and Paul rectory, 720 W. Main St., Rochester. The parish offices and other tenants are also located in that building.



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