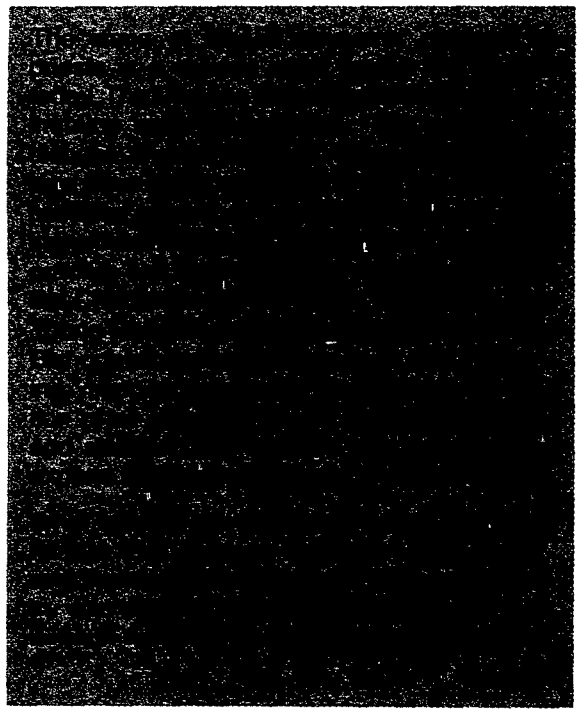
Frequently asked financial questions related to the issue of sexual abuse of children by priests

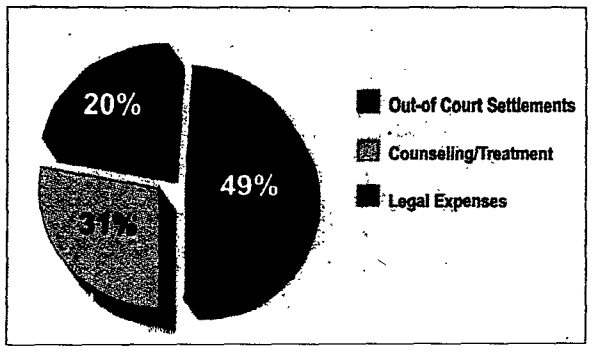


Q How are costs associated with the sexual abuse of children by priests and deacons paid?

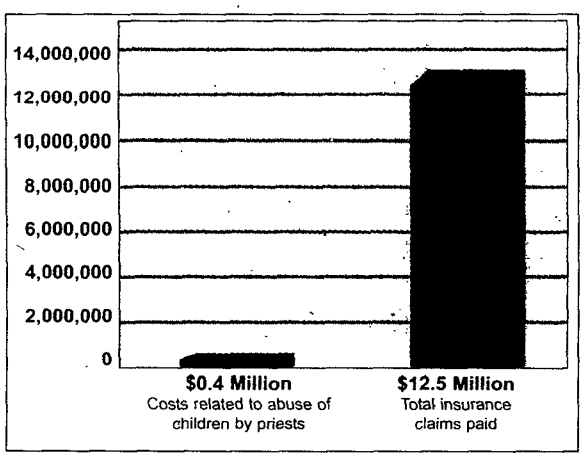
A Individual parishes have not paid any expenses associated with these cases. All costs for claims related to the sexual abuse are paid by the diocesan insurance program. The diocese runs an insurance program for all parishes, schools, and agencies of the diocese covering a full-range of insurance issues such as fire, property damage, theft, liability, auto, workers compensation, etc. The diocese charges premiums to all parishes, schools and agencies to cover the costs of buying insurance policies, processing claims and payment of claims within the deductible limits retained by the diocesan insurance program.

Q How much has the Diocese paid related to the sexual abuse of children by priests and deacons?

A For the period from July 1, 1992 through June 20, 2002, the diocese has paid a total of $426,000 for counseling for victims and their families, settlements with victims and legal expenses.



Costs associated with sexual abuse of children by priests



In contrast, over the same ten-year period, the diocesan insurance program paid a total of $12.5 million for all other insurance claims, such as property damage, personal liability, workers' compensation, auto and boilers for parishes, schools and agencies of the diocese.

Q Is my contribution used to pay legal settlements and expenses?

A All of the ministries of the Diocese of Rochester are made possible through the generosity of our donors. These contributions enable our local church to carry out a wide variety of ministries that keep it healthy and vibrant, and allow it to meet the spiritual needs of our faithful. Like any business or organization of its size, however, the diocese and its parishes, schools and agencies deal with the costs of doing business, including the need to maintain insurance and pay insurance claims.

Q Who can I contact if I have concerns regarding sexual abuse?

A If you are reporting a case of possible sexual abuse, you may contact the victims' advocates that have been appointed by Bishop Matthew Clark. They are:

Ms. Barbara Pedeville
328-3228 ext. 1215 or
1-800-388-7177 ext. 1215

Rev. Robert Ring
(315) 730-0882

For any other questions, you may contact the Diocesan Chancellor, Rev. Daniel Condon, at 328-3228, ext. 1213 or 1-800-388-7177 ext. 1213.

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The financial statements of the Diocese of Rochester were audited by Bonadio & Co., LLP, Certified Public Accountants, and independent auditors of the diocese's financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002. The auditor's report and a complete set of the diocese's financial statements are available on the diocesan web site, www.dor.org or upon request from:

Mr. James Rinefierd
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1150 Buffalo Rd.
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