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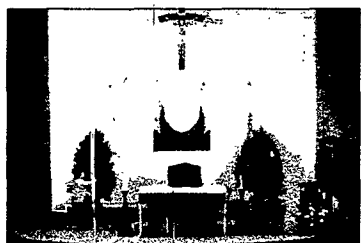
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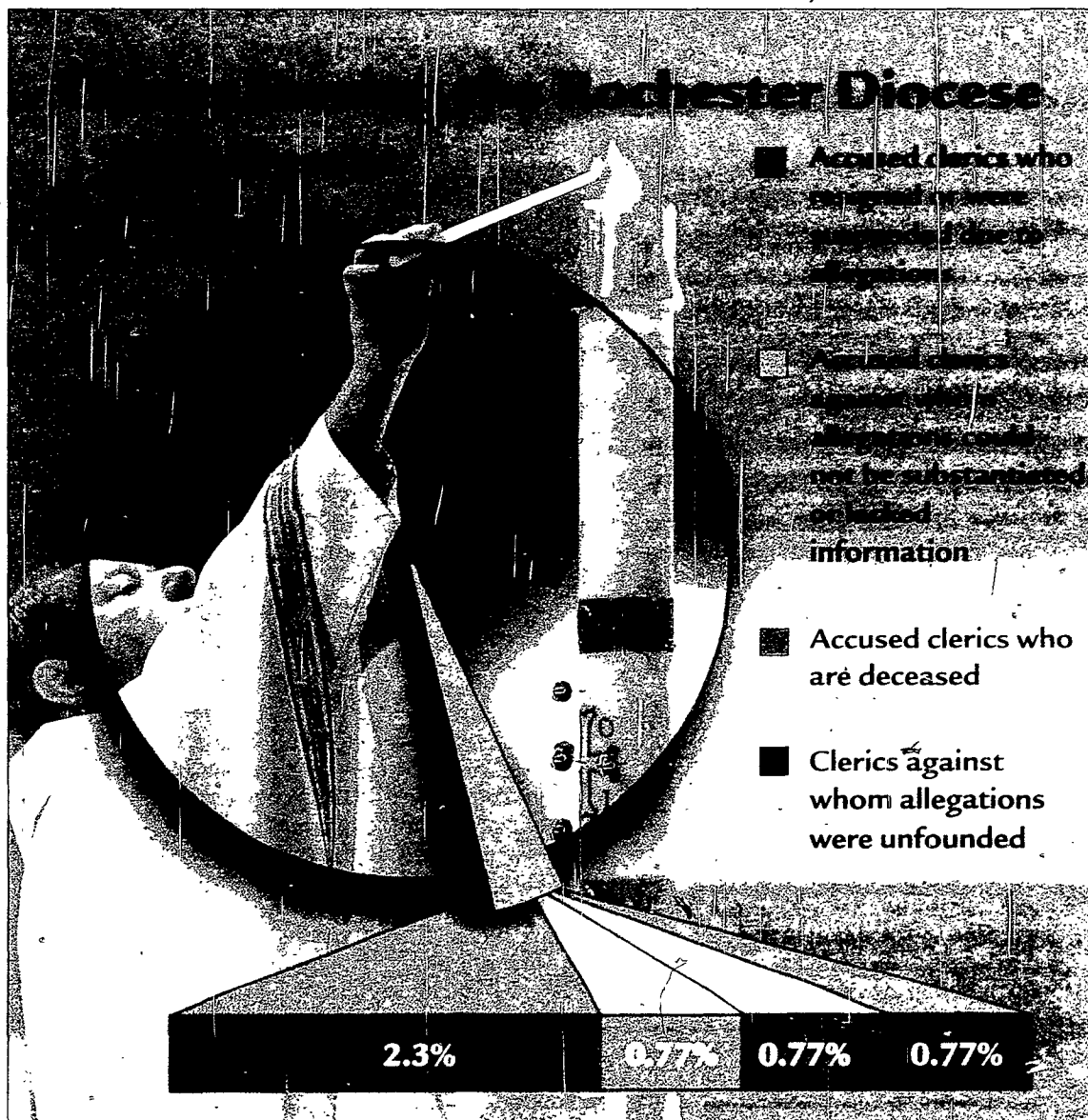
Bishop reveals audit findings, data on abuse

Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced Jan. 6 that a recent independent audit has found the Diocese of Rochester in full compliance with the U.S. bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The bishop's announcement was made in conjunction with the release in Washington, D.C., that day of results from audits of 191 U.S. dioceses (see related story, page 4).

The audit was conducted locally Sept. 15-19, 2003, by representatives of the Gavin Group, a Boston-based firm commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to assess nationwide compliance with the charter, which the bishops adopted in 2002.

Bishop Clark said he was pleased by the auditors' local findings of full compliance, noting that they represented "a strong indicator that we do take very seriously the issue at hand."

In an open letter to the people of the diocese, printed in its entirety on pages 2-3 of this issue, Bishop Clark said, "I am confident we are taking the right steps to accomplish our mission of prevention through such measures as criminal background checks of all employees and volunteers who work with minors and vulnerable adults, through a new Pastoral Code of Conduct, and the extensive and multi-layered awareness training we are providing."



Data Source: Diocese of Rochester

Graphic by Linda Jeanne Rivers/Catholic Courier

Also on Jan. 6, Bishop Clark revealed data showing that the Diocese of Rochester had paid out a total of \$1.51 million over the last 53 years in response to cases of sexual abuse of minors by priests. The data indicated that 36 diocesan priests had been the subjects of sexual-abuse com-

plaints since 1950, with 18 of them having resigned or been suspended from ministry as a result of allegations.

These figures were part of local statistics developed for another national initiative — a diocese-by-diocese study by John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City on

the scope and nature of the sexual-abuse crisis in the U.S. church. The national study is being conducted on behalf of the National Review Board, an independent panel formed by the U.S. bishops to oversee progress of all U.S. dioceses in implementing sexual-abuse

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Story by Mike Latona