

Mission Statement

The Diocese of Peoria recognizes the seriousness and severity of sexual misconduct and hopes to provide a fair and compassionate response in addressing the issues involved. The Victims Assistance Coordinator may provide assistance to the following:

- ◆ *Victims/survivors of sexual abuse by any clergy, religious or laity of the Diocese of Peoria*
- ◆ *Families of these victims / survivors*
- ◆ *Parishes that have been involved in instances of sexual abuse*

We are committed to providing the empathy, understanding and appropriate pastoral care that are necessary to facilitate recovery and healing. We also respect an individual's civil rights, and the Victims Assistance Coordinator may not be able to provide all the information you request.

Each reported incident will be treated separately, confidentially, and responded to with a timely and thorough investigation.

For more information or to seek assistance:

*Deacon Bob Sondag
Victims Assistance Coordinator
Diocese of Peoria
419 NE Madison Avenue
Peoria IL 61603
(309) 241-6600*

Victims Assistance Program



**A
Compassionate
Response to
Sexual Abuse**

*Catholic Diocese
Of Peoria*

The Catholic Diocese of Peoria is dedicated to protecting children and to helping victims/survivors of sexual abuse. There is a holy relationship between the church and its members, whether they are adults or children. Furthermore, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, and/or sexual exploitation will not be tolerated in any form by priests, deacons, or by lay employees or volunteers.

We feel a strong concern for the victims/survivors of sexual abuse. We apologize to the survivors of sexual abuse. We are remorseful for their pain and the disbelief they encountered.

The Church accepts its responsibility, and for the reasons stated above will provide help for the victims and survivors of sexual abuse and ensure that offenders face justice.

The Diocese has placed coordination of its response to sexual abuse under the Office of the Chancellor.

When you report an instance of sexual abuse or exploitation to the Chancellor's Office, your action will set in motion a specific and carefully defined process. Here is a brief summary of what you can expect:

- ◆ *Your report will be immediately forwarded to the Bishop of Peoria, who will authorize the Office of the Chancellor to conduct an investigation.*
- ◆ *The accused will be notified of the allegation and the source of the report. The accused will also be given opportunity to report to the allegation.*
- ◆ *The results of the investigation are conveyed to the Sexual Misconduct Review Board who make recommendations to the Bishop.*

- ◆ *The Bishop will take appropriate action. In any decisions which are made, the rights of all parties and the safety of the community are paramount.*
- ◆ *Your contact throughout this process and any follow-up will be the Victim Assistance Coordinator.*

