

ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

By means of this notice, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Dubuque wishes to make more widely known its program for assistance to people who were/are childhood victims of sexual abuse by clergy or other Church personnel. The program provides the services of Victim Assistance Coordinators and was established in response to the archdiocese's new "Policy for the Protection of Minors," made public on June 13, 2003.

The program is staffed by two Victim Assistance Coordinators (VACs). They are Dr. Thomas Anderegg and Joan Hoffmann. These individuals possess advanced degrees — one has a doctorate and the other has a master's degree. They have received training in matters related to sexual abuse and intervention with victims of abuse. Each has pastoral experience. The VACs are not employees of the archdiocese but are under contract to the Archdiocese of Dubuque to provide the services.

The function of the VACs is to provide a pastoral presence to victims and their families. They will receive allegations of abuse, make a report to civil authorities, and facilitate assistance for the victim. The services provided by the VACs may also include referral for professional mental health services, referral to social service agencies or support groups, and/or referral for spiritual care.

The focus of the program is the emotional and spiritual well-being and healing of those affected by the sexual misconduct of clergy and other personnel of the archdiocese.



ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE

**Allegations of current and past abuse may be made by calling Dr. Thomas Anderegg (563-556-1225)
or toll-free: Joan Hoffmann (866-319-4636).**

Allegations of abuse may also be made to civil authorities, or the Iowa Child Abuse Reporting line (800-362-2178)
or the Archdiocese of Dubuque at 800-876-3546.