



## **July 15, 2002 Statement in response to a letter from Assistant Attorney General Alice Moore**

*The following statement is in response to media inquiries regarding a letter from Assistant Attorney General Alice Moore to the Cardinal's Commission for the Protection of Children.*

### **Statement of Donna M. Morrissey, Spokeswoman, Archdiocese of Boston,**

The Archdiocese of Boston first learned of the letter from Assistant Attorney General Alice Moore to the Cardinal's Commission for the Protection of Children through the media after 5:00 PM this evening. The Archdiocese is in the process of reviewing the contents of the letter.

In the past six months the Archdiocese of Boston has made substantial progress in regards to policy reform to protect children, increased outreach to victims of sexual abuse, and development of a comprehensive educational program that the Archdiocese of Boston is in the process of implementing. The Archdiocese of Boston has worked and is continuing to work closely with the proper legal authorities to comply with the changes in the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 119, Section 51A. Over the past six months the Archdiocese of Boston has accomplished the following:

- The Archdiocese of Boston has implemented a zero tolerance policy that has removed any member of the clergy that there is a known credible allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor.
- The Archdiocese of Boston has adopted a mandated reporting policy for all clergy, employees, and volunteers of the Archdiocese of Boston
- The Archdiocese of Boston has created an Office for Assistance and Healing off site and through that office has hired staff and designated resources to increase outreach to victims of sexual abuse. The Office for Assistance and Healing has a toll-free number and has in some cases forwarded information to legal authorities regarding new allegations of abuse that have been reported.
- The Archdiocese of Boston is in the process of developing a comprehensive educational program that will address the issue of child abuse with all clergy, staff, employees, and volunteers. The educational program will provide resources to increase awareness among adults and children about child abuse prevention and how to report suspected instances of abuse.

The Archdiocese of Boston is grateful for the outstanding work and generous service of the members of the Cardinal's Commission for the Protection of Children. The Archdiocese of Boston will continue to work with the Commission to ensure that everything possible can and will be done to protect our children.

Copyright © 2004-2006 Archdiocese of Boston; all rights reserved