

REPORT OF THE PASTORAL ETHICS COMMITTEE
TO THE CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF
NORTHERN INDIANA
2008

During the 2008 year, the Pastoral Ethics Committee met to begin plans for establishing and training two Response Teams that would be activated in the unlikely event that sexual abuse or misconduct might occur within one of the diocese's parishes. The teams would include an Inquiry Team and a Healing Team. To staff these two teams, the Committee extended invitations to other clergy and lay people in the Diocese to join their efforts and to fill positions on these two teams should the need arise. During Fall and Winter 2008-2009, all team members will receive training in order to execute their roles should the need arise.

Additionally, the Pastoral Ethics Committee agreed that in order to facilitate training of youth and children's volunteer workers in parishes, clergy can present the first part of the Church Pension Group's *Safeguarding God's Children* program entitled "For Congregations," without the benefit of a certified trainer being present. Clergy are encouraged to borrow the training materials from the Diocesan Office.

In May of this year, Canon SuzeAnne Silla and the Rev. Susan Haynes attended training on *Safeguarding God's People* in the area of sexual harassment and clergy sexual misconduct. Training materials will soon be available for the Diocese and training dates will be set for Diocesan clergy.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Susan B. Haynes
Chair, Pastoral Ethics Committee