



DIOCESE OF PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE

May 24, 2005

Statement of the Diocese regarding Monsignor Richard Bowles

The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee is always saddened when any form of abuse or hurt is caused by anyone in ministry with the church.

The diocese has strived, even prior to the adoption of The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, June 2002) to always respond swiftly and forthrightly to victims of abuse by providing counseling and other pastoral services.

Almost two years ago, after Monsignor Richard Bowles had been removed from ministry, Mr. Paul Tugwell came forward and reported that he had been abused by Monsignor Bowles in 1971. In accordance with The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the diocese immediately reached out to Mr. Tugwell to provide counseling and other assistance, which he accepted. The diocese continues to offer counseling and other assistance to anyone who comes forward with a credible allegation of abuse.

To report a case of abuse by any person associated with the church, please contact the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator Ms Danielle Malone, LMHC, at 850-438-3131, ext. 17, or call 850-435-3520 and ask for the Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection.