



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Saint Cloud

214 3RD AVENUE SOUTH - BOX 1248
ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA 56302
TELEPHONE (320) 251-2340
FAX (320) 258-7618

September 9, 2021

Dear Pastors, Site Administrators, Faith Formation Leaders, Youth Ministers, and Catholic School Principals:

One of my responsibilities as bishop is to ensure all the parishes and Catholic schools in the diocese comply with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. The Diocese of Saint Cloud wants to provide safe and loving places for our children, youth, and vulnerable adults to grow in their faith.

This past year the diocese settled with former abuse victims. I am very sorry for what happened and vow to work diligently to ensure abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult will never happen or be tolerated again.

Unfortunately, this past year the pandemic caused many of the faith formation classes to be on pause. The diocesan policy requires annual training of children and youth. I understand why that may not have happened during this past year, but going forward every parish and school must complete safe environment training for children and youth. This year the diocese will be using the curriculum from Virtus, "Empowering God's Children" for all grade levels.

Please continue to make sure all adults who work with children and youth are up to date with safe environment training and background checks. No one should work with children or youth until they have completed training and background checks.

As I look forward to the future, I am very pleased the diocese now has an Office of Safe Environment to ensure that the diocese does everything it possibly can to make our parishes and schools safe places for all young people and that the diocese is compliant with the Charter. Thank you for all your efforts in this regard.

God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Donald J. Kettler

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Bishop, Diocese of Saint Cloud