



*Office of the Bishop  
Diocese of Saint Cloud*

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July 18, 2023

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

I am so excited to be the bishop of the Diocese of Saint Cloud. One of the most important tasks of my role is to ensure that all parishes and Catholic Schools in the diocese comply with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The United States Conference for Catholic Bishops has created a strategic plan addressing issues the church must address. One of the priorities is "Protect and Heal God's Children: Restore integrity, foster virtue". The safe environment program of the diocese is aimed at doing just that.

The Diocese of Saint Cloud has worked diligently to provide safe and loving places for our children, youth, and vulnerable adults to grow in their faith and have a loving relationship with God.

The Diocese of Saint Cloud requires all adults who work or volunteer to complete safe environment training which includes a background check every five years. I encourage all parishes and schools to pay due diligence to this requirement.

Once again, this year the schools and parishes will be using the curriculum from Virtus for children and youth, "Empowering God's Children". If a parish or school needs any help, contact Linda Kaiser in the safe environment office. Linda can be reached at 320-251-2340, ext. 106, or at [lkaiser@gw.stcdio.org](mailto:lkaiser@gw.stcdio.org).

My sincerest appreciation and blessings.

Yours in Christ,

+ *Patrick M. Neary, C.S.C.*

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Bishop, Diocese of Saint Cloud