



*Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Saint Cloud*

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Dear Pastoral Leaders:

As the Bishop of the Diocese of Saint Cloud, one of my responsibilities is to ensure the diocese is complying with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The United States Conference for Catholic Bishops has a strategic plan addressing issues the church must address. One of the priorities is: "Protect and Heal God's Children: Restore integrity, foster virtue." I am proud to say 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 in parishes and schools across the diocese 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."

Check out the diocesan website for safe environment at www.stcdio.org/safeenvironment. There are many excellent resources for parishes and schools to use. If you have any questions, please contact Bailey Ziegler at bailey.ziegler@gw.stcdio.org.

Yours in Christ,

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

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Bishop, Diocese of Saint Cloud