



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Saint Cloud
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Dear Pastoral Leaders:

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, I am renewing my commitment as Bishop of the Diocese of Saint Cloud to uphold and support the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. This sacred responsibility is not only a matter of compliance but a reflection of our deep moral and spiritual obligation to ensure that every child and young person entrusted to our care is safe, respected, and nurtured in a secure environment.

As part of this commitment, our diocese will participate in a routine but significant audit this fall to assess and affirm our compliance with the Charter, and includes a selection of parishes and Catholic schools. This process helps us remain vigilant and accountable in our efforts to protect those most vulnerable.

To that end, the Diocese of Saint Cloud requires all adults who work or volunteer in our parishes and schools to complete a background check and the *CMG Safe Haven* safe environment training program. This training must be renewed every five years using *CMG A Safe Side of the Line*. I urge all parishes and schools to remain diligent in fulfilling this requirement, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the safe environment site administrators and coordinators in our Area Catholic Communities (ACCs) who work tirelessly to maintain these standards.

We also provide age-appropriate training for young people to help them understand how to stay safe and recognize potentially harmful situations. This training is offered through the Virtus platform, *Empowering God's Children*. I encourage you to visit our Diocesan Safe Environment website at www.stcdio.org/safeenvironment, where you will find a variety of excellent resources available for both parishes and schools.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Bailey Ziegler at bailey.ziegler@gw.stcdio.org.

Thank you for your continued dedication to creating and sustaining a safe, faith-filled environment for all.

Yours in Christ,

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

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Bishop, Diocese of Saint Cloud