



Office of the Bishop Diocese of Toledo

To: Priests; Deacons; Pastoral Leaders; Business Managers; Parishes; Schools;
Safe Environment Compliance Officers
Cc: Mr. Frank DiLallo; Mrs. Jacqueline Maume
From: Reverend Monte J. Hoyles, JCL
Date: 31 May 2016
Re: Safe Environment Compliance Audit Results
Office of Child & Youth Protection and Victim Assistance Update

Safe Environment Compliance Audit Results

As you are already aware, the Diocese of Toledo participates in an annual audit to determine if our safe environment program, policies, and practices are in compliance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Youth and Young People*.

On behalf of Bishop Thomas, I am happy to report that the Diocese of Toledo has been found to be in compliance with the articles of the *Charter*, based on the on-sight audit that was conducted last October. I kindly refer you to the attached announcement, which will soon be posted on the diocesan website.

As with most audits of this nature, recommendations were provided to help improve the effectiveness of our program, one of which I would like to request your assistance in implementing.

In order to ensure that everyone is aware of how to report an allegation of sexual abuse by church personnel, each parish and school is to publish some form of notice on this process approximately 4-6 times each year. These notices (in various formats) will periodically be placed in *Nuntius* for your use. The following is the first such notice, which I kindly ask that you publish as soon as possible.

See next page for the notice.

Diocese of Toledo Safe Environment Program in Full Compliance with USCCB Norms. Each year, the Diocese of Toledo is required to undergo an audit to ensure that it is in compliance with the articles of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. Bishop Daniel Thomas is pleased to announce that, following the October 2015 on-site audit for the fiscal year 2014-2015, the Diocese was found to be in full compliance with the requirements in the *Charter*.

The Diocese of Toledo remains committed to ensuring the protection of children and providing a safe environment for all young people. If you have any knowledge of abuse that has been committed by a cleric or by any personnel or volunteer of the Catholic Church, you are urged to report the abuse to your local police department, Child Protection Services, and to contact Mr. Frank DiLallo, diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (419) 243-2150; or to write to Mr. DiLallo at 1933 Spielbusch Avenue; Toledo, Ohio 43604.

Diócesis del Programa de Ambiente Seguro Toledo es de plena conformidad con las normas de la USCCB. Cada año, la Diócesis de Toledo está obligada a seguir un proceso de auditoría con el fin de asegurar el cumplimiento de los artículos de la *Carta para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes* de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos. El Obispo Daniel Thomas se complace en anunciar que, luego de la auditoría *in situ* realizada en el mes de Octubre 2015 correspondiente al año fiscal 2014-2015, la Diócesis ha cumplido satisfactoriamente con los requerimientos de la *Carta*.

La Diócesis de Toledo renueva su compromiso de asegurar la protección a los niños y de proveer un ambiente seguro para todos los jóvenes. Si usted tiene conocimiento de algún abuso que haya sido cometido por algún miembro del clero o por cualquier empleado o voluntario de la Iglesia Católica, le instamos a reportar dicho abuso al departamento local de policía, Servicios de Protección al Menor, así como contactar al Sr. Frank DiLallo, Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis, al teléfono (419) 243-2150. Si lo desea, puede usted también enviar su correspondencia al Sr. DiLallo a: 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, 43604.

NOTE: After publishing this announcement in your parish bulletin, please retain a hardcopy of the bulletin and include it with your annual Dean's Visitation Report. This will allow the independent auditors of our safe environment program to verify that we are informing our parishioners and school families about this important topic.

It is also requested that you provide a link for the Office of Child & Youth Protection and Victim Assistance on your parish/school website. The website address for this link is: toledodiocese.org/page/protecting-youth-victim-assistance.

Office of Child & Youth Protection and Victim Assistance Update

The on-site audit mentioned above also provided an opportunity for the diocese to seriously consider how to make the processes of safe environment training and background checks more efficient and effective. Thanks to the excellent work of Mr. Frank DiLallo and Mrs. Jacqueline Maume, I am pleased to announce the implementation of a new on-line training program and an easier method for background checks.

Effective 1 July 2016, all online safe environment training will be conducted through *Virtus, Protecting God's Children*, a nationally recognized on-line training program utilized by dozens of dioceses throughout the United States. This program will replace our previous program, *Shield the Vulnerable*, and will be free of charge for all individuals—clergy, religious, employees, educators, and volunteers—who are required to undertake the training.

In addition to this, the another *Virtus* titled *Touching Safety Program for Children* will also be used by our Catholic schools and parish-based religious education programs to teach students and young people about touching safety and how to notify an adult if someone has hurt them. This program utilizes a series of age-appropriate videos and lesson plans, all of which will be available on-line for educators, and at no cost to the parish or school.

An added benefit to the *Virtus* program will be the elimination of entering safe environment information into the ParishSoft database. *Virtus* will maintain a separate database providing all of the training and background check information needed by local safe-environment compliance officers. This information will be fully accessible on the local level. What is more, *Virtus* will automatically notify registered individuals when it is time to update their training and background check.

Another improvement to be implemented on 1 July 2016 will be the use of *Selection.com* for background checks. *Selection.com*, which is based in Cincinnati, Ohio, will be used for all individuals who are required to undergo background checks. This web-based program, utilizing an individual's Social Security Number and other information, will eliminate the need for most volunteers to undergo fingerprint background checks. The cost for this will be \$25 per individual, and will need to be renewed every five (5) years.

Several value-added benefits come with the use of *Selection.com*. First and foremost, the diocese will receive a quarterly update on each background check. This will help us to maintain a current and truly safe environment for those who serve our children and young people. Currently, if a crime is committed after someone undergoes an FBI or BCI background check, that information would not be discovered until the next time the individual goes through the fingerprinting process—five long years! With *Selection.com*, the diocese will know within three (3) months of the conviction—allowing us to take corrective action sooner. In addition to this, our preliminary tests with *Selection.com* strongly suggest that the reports we will receive are more thorough and accurate than those we currently receive through the fingerprinting process. And finally, *Selection.com* fully integrates with the *Virtus* database, so all the necessary information will be compiled in one easily accessible location.

Please know that more detailed information on both the *Virtus* and *Selection.com* processes will be forthcoming to both local compliance officers and to parish and school leadership in the near future.

Finally, the Office of Child & Youth Protection and Victim Assistance is currently revising the *Code of Conduct* and the policy related to Child and Youth Protection. This process has been on-going for a number of months and it is hoped that a new Code of Conduct will be published before 1 July 2016 and a revised policy by the end of the calendar year.

As always, if I, Frank, or Jacqueline can assist you in any way, please contact us at your convenience.

Diocese of Toledo in Compliance Following Safe Environment Audit

The Diocese of Toledo has been found to be in compliance with the articles of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

The compliance letter followed an October 2015 on-site audit in which Pastoral Center, parish, and diocesan school employees were interviewed concerning practices related to creating and maintaining a safe environment for our children and youth.

The audit was based on the Diocese's report for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. On-site audits take place every three years, with audits by correspondence taking place during the intervening years.

The Diocese of Toledo remains committed to ensuring the protection of children and providing a safe environment for all young people. If you have any knowledge of abuse that has been committed by a cleric or by any personnel of the Catholic Church, you are urged to report the abuse to your local police department, Children Services, and to contact Mr. Frank DiLallo, diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (419) 243-2150; or to write to Mr. DiLallo at 1933 Spielbusch Avenue; Toledo, Ohio 43604.

Cumplimiento de la Diócesis de Toledo a la Auditoría de Ambientes Seguros

La Diócesis de Toledo ha satisfecho el cumplimiento de los artículos de la *Carta para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes* de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos.

El cumplimiento de la carta se establece luego de la auditoría efectuada *in situ* en las propias oficinas diocesanas el pasado mes de Octubre, 2015. En dicha auditoría, los empleados del Centro Pastoral, Parroquias y escuelas diocesanas fueron entrevistados acerca de las prácticas y medidas tomadas en relación con la creación y el mantenimiento de ambientes seguros para niños y jóvenes.

La auditoría está basada en el reporte de la Diócesis correspondiente al período 1^{ro} de Julio de 2014 al 30 de Junio, 2015. Las auditorías *in situ* se efectúan cada 3 años, con auditorías por correspondencia durante los años intermedios.

La Diócesis de Toledo renueva su compromiso de asegurar la protección a los niños y de proveer un ambiente seguro para todos los jóvenes. Si usted tiene conocimiento de algún abuso que haya sido cometido por algún miembro del clero o por cualquier empleado de la Iglesia Católica, le instamos a reportar dicho abuso al departamento local de policía, Servicios de Protección al Menor, así como contactar al Sr. Frank DiLallo, Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis, al teléfono (419) 243-2150. Si lo desea, puede usted también enviar su correspondencia al Sr. DiLallo a: 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, 43604.