

September 10, 2020

SAFE ENVIRONMENT UPDATE

To all Pastors and Administrators:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

It is **your responsibility** to ensure that all parish staff and volunteers are Safe Environment trained in accordance with the requirements that can be found online at www.parma.org under the “Safe Environment” page. We are now using an online Virtus system for all Safe Environment training.

Also, effective immediately, all persons who are renewing their Safe Environment compliance status (which must be done every 5 years) will be required to undergo a new **Background Investigation**. Those persons who must do this as part of their renewal process in 2020 will be notified in the near future by the Safe Environment Administrator regarding the procedure that must be followed.

In addition, as a reminder to all ECF teachers: On an annual basis, you must teach the **Safe Environment Lesson** as outlined within the Catechetical Coordinator’s Administrative Handbook or on the Safe Environment Page of the eparchy’s website – parma.org. The ECF Coordinator shall complete the online ECF Class Instruction Annual Report **no later than December 15, 2020**, indicating Catechist, Grade Level, and number of students at each grade level who participated in the Safe Environment Lesson.

The Safe Environment Review Board is confident that the transition to a Virtus Safe Environment compliance format and the performance of Background Investigations every 5 years will greatly improve the accuracy and accountability of our Safe Environment program.

Thank you again for all of your efforts to maintain a Safe Environment for all of our children and vulnerable adults.

Deacon William V. Fredrick
Safe Environment Coordinator
Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma