December 21, 2021

2021 Policy Concerning Abuse and Neglect of Minors or Vulnerable Adults

Dear Clergy, Religious, and Laity of the Archdiocese of New Orleans:

The Archdiocese of New Orleans remains committed to the protection of children and young people as well as of vulnerable adults. I ask that each of us, in our service to the children and youth of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, continue our deep commitment to provide a safe environment for the minors and vulnerable under our pastoral care. I encourage everyone also to pray for and help people who have experienced the harm of abuse in the past and those who may come forth with allegations now or in the future. Thank you for your continued faithfulness to the prevention of child abuse.

The Policy Concerning Abuse and Neglect of Minors or Vulnerable Adults, the Principles of Ethics and Integrity in Ministry, and the Background Screening policies have been revised. Please take time to review the policies and many resources we have available to us on the Safe Environment page of the Archdiocesan website, https://www.nolacatholic.org/safe-environment. If you have any questions regarding Safe Environment in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, I invite you to contact Sr. Mary Ellen Wheelahan, O. Carm, srmwheelahan@arch-no.org or 504-861-6278.

We will continue our Safe Environment programs throughout the Archdiocese in our parishes, schools, ministries, and organizations. All children and youth will be trained annually using appropriate materials.

It is mandatory for all clergy, paid staff, and volunteers having contact with minors and those attending any over-night event with minors, to receive Safe Environment training on mandated reporting laws, standards of behavior, and appropriate boundaries according to our policies. They must also complete the criminal background checks as required in our policies.

I ask that we continue to pray together for the children, youth and vulnerable adults of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. It is important in our society today that we teach them to recognize Christ within themselves and others and to have the courage necessary to come forward if they need help.

Wishing you God’s blessings and with gratitude for your service to our Church, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans