



Diocese of Kalamazoo Code of Conduct for Clergy

Priests and Deacons who are in ministry within the Diocese of Kalamazoo must uphold Catholic moral values and maintain the Diocesan Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct aims to set forth a general set of standards for behavior in pastoral situations, particularly with regard to providing a Safe Environment for all children, minors, and vulnerable adults.

Priests and Deacons who conduct themselves appropriately in public and in private have the ability to inspire and motivate other persons to behave in the same way. When members of the Clergy do not exercise their positions of trust in the Church in an appropriate manner, they may cause grave harm to others by scandalizing them and undermining their faith. It is the responsibility of each Priest and Deacon to adhere to this Code of Conduct. Priests and Deacons who disregard this Code of Conduct will be subject to remedial or disciplinary action by the Bishop. By signing this Code of Conduct, the Priest or Deacon affirms that he has read and agreed to abide by all current Diocesan Safe Environment Policies and Procedures, including any future revisions. Please note that all policy citations are from The Code of Ethical Standards (CES) for Ministry to Minors.

As a Priest or Deacon, I will:

- Treat everyone with respect, dignity, integrity, and consideration. (CES 1.2)
- Faithfully adhere to the implementation of all Safe Environment standards.
- Avoid situations of being alone with a minor, consistent with the Diocesan Code of Ethical Standards.
- Refrain from all inappropriate physical and verbal interaction with all people, with special care for minors, as defined in the Diocesan Code of Ethical Standards. (CES 1.16, 1.17)
- Report suspected abuse of minors to required civil authorities and to the Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator within 24 hours. (CES 1.1)
- Cooperate fully in any investigation by civil authorities, in consultation with the Bishop.
- Stay current with monthly *Virtus* bulletins.

I understand that to remain a Priest or Deacon in good standing within the Diocese of Kalamazoo, I must faithfully abide by the aforementioned, adhere to all applicable Diocesan policies and procedures, and undergo all initial and renewed background checks, including criminal history. I understand that any action inconsistent with the Code of Conduct for Clergy or the failure to take action mandated by the Code of Conduct for Clergy shall result in proper disciplinary action.

Priest or Deacon's Printed Name

Date

Priest or Deacon's Signature