



DIOCESE
of
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

May 7, 2019 (Feast of St. Rose Venerini)

Dear pastors, safe environment coordinators, and parish catechetical leaders,

Last year we asked parishes to complete the mandatory youth Safe Environment training and report training numbers to our office by December 31. I am happy to report that almost all parishes submitted their numbers on time and that our reporting compliance was the best we've seen in the last three years. Thank you to all of you who worked to make sure that the report we submit for our annual audit will be as complete and accurate as possible.

As we continue to create a safe, evangelizing environment for children, I ask each of you to make sure that Safe Environment training and background checks are carefully monitored and an integral part of the onboarding process for your catechists, youth ministers, and volunteers. It is important that each member of our community feels responsibility for keeping students safe as well as helping those who have been abused heal through our survivor assistance program.

To this end, **I am again asking that all parish catechetical programs complete the youth Safe Environment training during the first semester of the school year** so that we can identify students who need our help sooner rather than later. I would recommend getting the fall training dates on your catechetical schedule as soon as possible so that you have time to prepare.

This year you may again choose between Circle of Grace and Safe & Sacred's Children's Learning Program. Circle of Grace is offered free of charge through the diocese; email jsullivan@dol-in.org to be given access to the downloadable materials. Safe & Sacred may be accessed through the Safe & Sacred training site (safeandsacred-dol-in.org) by enrolling in the Safe & Sacred Children's Learning Program course. Once you have completed the short training you will be able to download the materials to share with your catechists.

The 2019 Safe Environment audit form will again be due to the Office of Catechesis no later than December 31. The form is available at www.dol-in.org/protecting-gods-children-resources. In addition to youth training numbers the audit form will ask if your Victim Assistance poster is displayed and if Victim Assistance information is clearly mentioned on your parish website. Victim Assistance information should also be included in parent newsletters and parish bulletins at least quarterly, if not more frequently.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions about our child safety curriculums or if we can be of assistance as you implement a curriculum in your parish.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan F. Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

Jonathan F. Sullivan
Director of Parish Ministries, Services, and Catechesis