

# August 2017

It has really been my hope that each of you have been able to step away from your daily responsibilities and get some rest this summer. Even if you have had a day here and there, I hope you've managed to just have some quiet time.

It's hard for me to practice what I'm hoping you are doing. But I'm trying.

For the first time in 22 years, I have found my responsibilities of caring and taking care of home and family obligations have shifted as Jon and I are preparing to send our third and last child off to college (hence the blond in the picture).

I'm at an odd place in life right now and it feels a bit sad and uncomfortable all at the same time. Don't get me wrong, Jon and I look forward to slowing down in the evenings as we once did many years ago. I have noticed a little more gray hair and a few more wrinkles that I don't remember seeing before. You can't see me, so just insert a smile right here.

When "different" happens in my life I most often feel some uncomfortableness and I wonder if the place God is putting me is good?

I guess I shouldn't doubt. After all, it's GOD, right? I can't say that I always like where HE puts me but if it comes from HIM, there's got to be some good that comes out of it. I have to trust that it will be good.

I know we could all share stories about the whereabouts God has put us and many of us would say that those places held a lesson or a meaningful outcome.

I need to be more like Peter when he said, **"Lord, it is good that we are here."** Peter was so happy to be in his circumstance that he wanted to pitch tents and stay! Even though Peter didn't really understand what was going on, he knew it was going to be good because our Lord was in charge.

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## Local Administrators

Thank you all so much for completing the DOLDA-TA for Child and Youth Protection. I know several of you were not able to meet the May 30 deadline because of VBS and other programs that were still going in June.

I know I can be persistent about getting the data in on time. I do this because I have a deadline to meet with our auditors who in turn report our information to USCCB. From there, the statistics are published and eventually are used for public knowledge.

If we do not have 100% reporting from our parishes and schools, I have to give an account as to why and I do not want to do that.

We discovered this year that there had been either brand new people or no one at all assuming the role for Child and Youth Protection. If that is the case we can still pull together the information that is needed to compile your parish or school information. One phone call or email to me and you will be on your way to completing this.

Because of the critical nature of 100% reporting, Sr. Rita and Lorraine have made follow up phone calls or emails on my behalf. Thanks to all those you have responded.



After you process (or run) a criminal background check please document that it has been run in VIRTUS. Go to the individual's account, Background Check Tab and click on Record a Background for this User. This is very useful for us to keep background checks current. Especially if the individual goes to another parish or school to volunteer.



Please look for three things before allowing someone to volunteer.

1. VIRTUS trained.
2. Code of Conduct on file.
3. Criminal Background Check on file (within the last 5 years)

If all three are not found, they are not compliant by Diocesan Policy.



If you have individuals who need to take a live VIRTUS - Protecting God's Children session (every school or parish employee) and you do not see a session listed close by, please contact me and I will work with our Facilitators who have the ability to travel to you. We can work with you to provide day or evening training sessions.

## Safe Environment Newsletter



Continuing with the CYP survey results.

### Question 2.

**Q-2 I get timely and accurate information when I call or email the Safe Environment Office.**

<b>Always</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Often</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>I don't call or email</b>	<b>3%</b>

First of all. If this office scored 100%, that would be great but I would not be satisfied that I am doing all I can. When it comes to the safety of our children and youth there will ALWAYS be ways and areas to improve on.

My hope is to always respond to emails or calls the same day. I will continue to work toward that. Because it's important for me to get to know all of those I serve, I spend a great deal of time on the road traveling to parishes and schools. If you do not hear back same day, please know that is what I'm doing. I try not to schedule every single day on the road so I can make sure I am responding to you. My goal is to see that 80% increase! As for those of you who fall in the 3%, I'm missing you.

