



As of this newsletter, I have had the honor to visit all 34 schools in the Diocese. What an enjoyable part of my job. I think our principals and school staff are top notch and they make me proud to be a part of our Diocese. Thank you all!

Every Monday the staff at the Diocese gathers for Hall Prayer. We pray for all those who serve in our parishes and schools as well as everyone in our Diocese. It's a real treat when Bishop Boyea is asked to say some inspiring words to us. When he is finished it always feels like, "Wow, how did he know I needed that one today?"

The Monday before Lent he was asked to say some inspiring words and his "inspiring words" were to remind us of Lent. He said, "Don't just give up something, but **Give** something" and immediately, that God voice that you don't always want hear but you feel said, "Treat those you live with just as good, if not better, than those you don't live with. Give to those you live with, not just to those you don't live with. " I wonder if anyone standing around me realized I blushed a bit?

You think I feel bad when this happens? You better believe I do. Why? Because the people I have NO tolerance for at home, are the very ones who witness me treating everyone outside our home with kindness. The very people I have NO tolerance for some days are the very ones that I will go home to tonight. They are the very people I hug and kiss daily, the very people I have been with since the beginning of their life and the very people who will be with me until the end of my life.

I'm pretty sure his "inspiring words" were not meant to inspire me just through the Lenten season but are meant for me in every season.

I think I have my work cut out for me!

Reba Sommer
Diocese of Lansing
Safe Environment Coordinator
rsommer@dioceseoflansing.org 517-342-2551



Local Administrators

A big thank you to all parishes and schools who participated in the Office of Child and Youth Protection survey. If you scroll down to the next page we have included the results. I will begin to address each question in hopes that it will be a useful resource for you. It is really helpful to know the areas where you have questions and how we can help provide answers to you. This may seem a little backwards, but I would like to start with **Question (Q)12** in the survey.



Safe Environment Newsletter

Q-12 I Need More Information

Q. Who needs to be VIRTUS trained (Protecting God's Children)?

A. Every parish employee, every priest, deacon, seminarian and lay ecclesial minister. No exceptions.


Every school employee, all substitute teachers and student teachers.


No exceptions.


Any contract employee who has contact with minors.

Every parish or school volunteer who has ongoing, unsupervised contact with minors or vulnerable adults.

Here are a few links with visuals that may help.

 <https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/sites/default/files/2017-03/GridVirtusCBCProcessAug2016.pdf>

 <https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/sites/default/files/2017-03/FlowchartParishEEs.pdf>

 <https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/sites/default/files/2017-03/FlowchartSchoolEESept2016.pdf>

Q. Who can take the online Virtus training versus who must attend a live session?

A. Live sessions are always preferred. However, Bishop Boyea has agreed that anyone in a voluntary role may take the online session if they are unable to attend a live session. This is not the case for an employee in a parish or school.

A **live** training session is part of a parish and school employee's employment requirements. If there are no live sessions scheduled that the employee can attend please call The Safe Environment Office and we can discuss temporary options.

Q. How do I know when to do a Criminal Background Check (CBC)?

A. All parish employees must have a CBC on file. If you have one that is older than five years, you will need to run a current ICHAT. It is a Best Practice to run a current ICHAT at the beginning of each year on employees. The five year interval is a Diocesan policy.

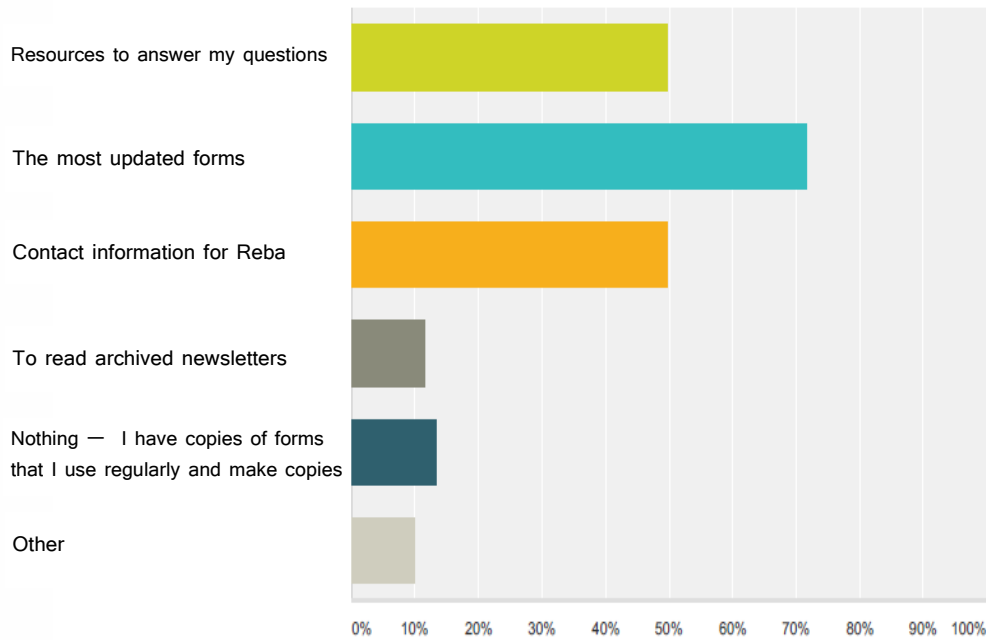
All school employees follow the Michigan State Police requirement of Live Scan Fingerprinting. (This applies to school employees, not parish employees or volunteers)

All parish and school volunteers who have ongoing, unsupervised contact with minors must have a CBC completed. Please remember that for a volunteer you may complete an ICHAT if the individual has resided in Michigan for 10 years or longer. If they have not, a Criminal History consent form is to be forwarded to the Safe Environment Office, where a nationwide background check is processed. We are always here to answer your questions.

Office Child and Youth Protection Survey

Q1 I use the Diocese of Lansing Office of Child and Youth Protection website for the following:

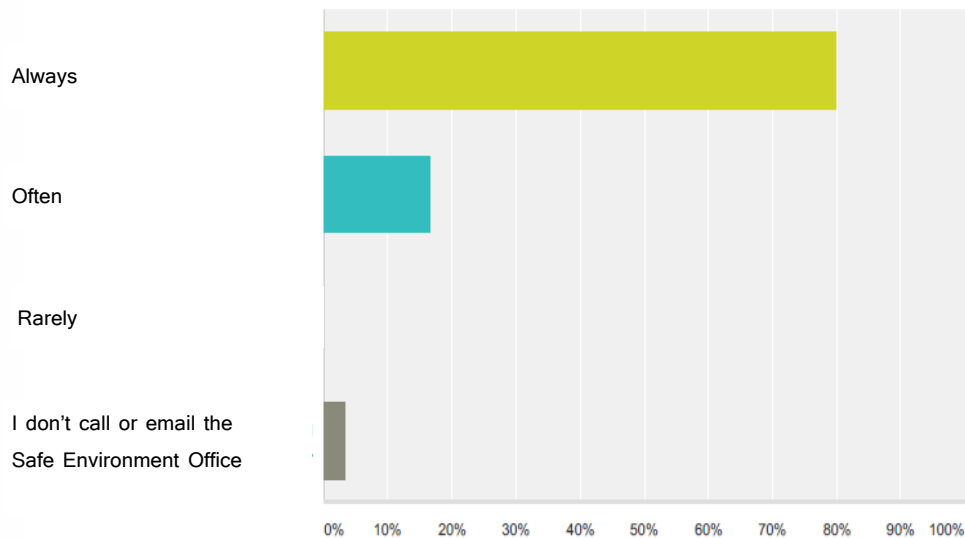
Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



Office Child and Youth Protection Survey

Q2 I get timely and accurate information when I call or email the Safe Environment Office.

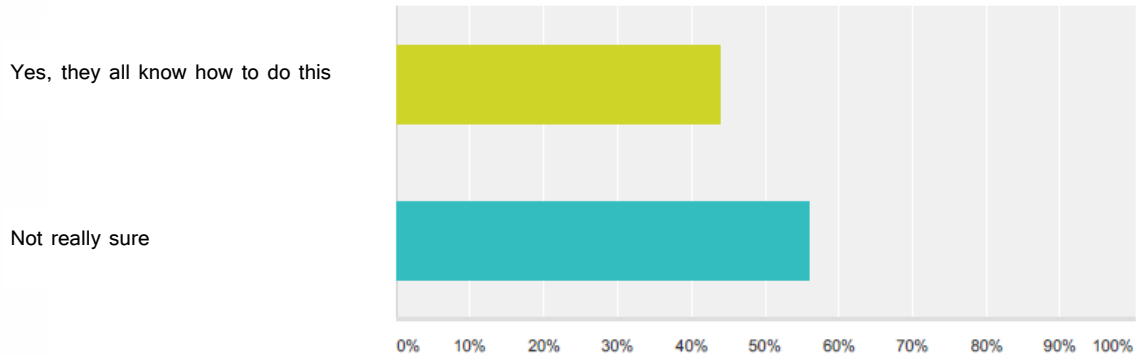
Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



Office Child and Youth Protection Survey

Q3 I am confident that the employees and volunteers know when and how to contact our diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator if they are faced with an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by a church employee/volunteer.

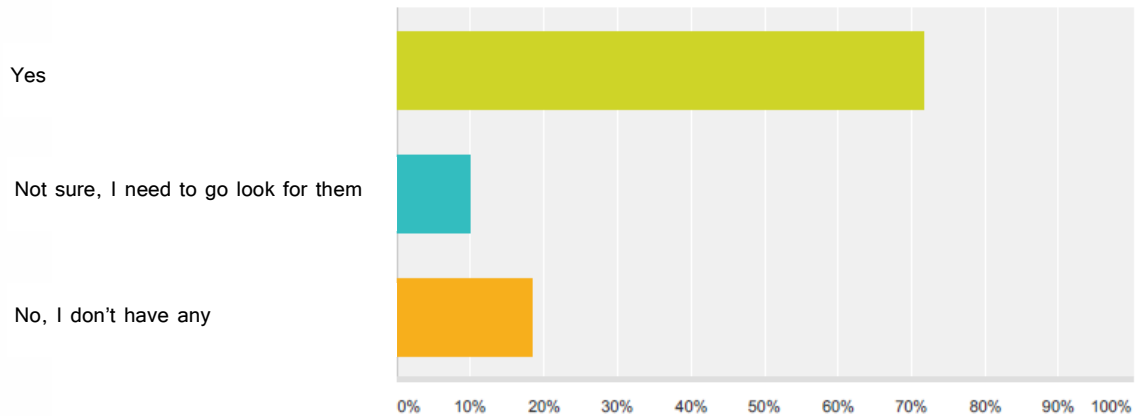
Answered: 59 Skipped: 1



Office Child and Youth Protection Survey

Q4 I have the Protecting God's Children poster with the Victim Assistance Coordinator's contact information on it and the Code of Conduct poster posted in high traffic areas of my facility.

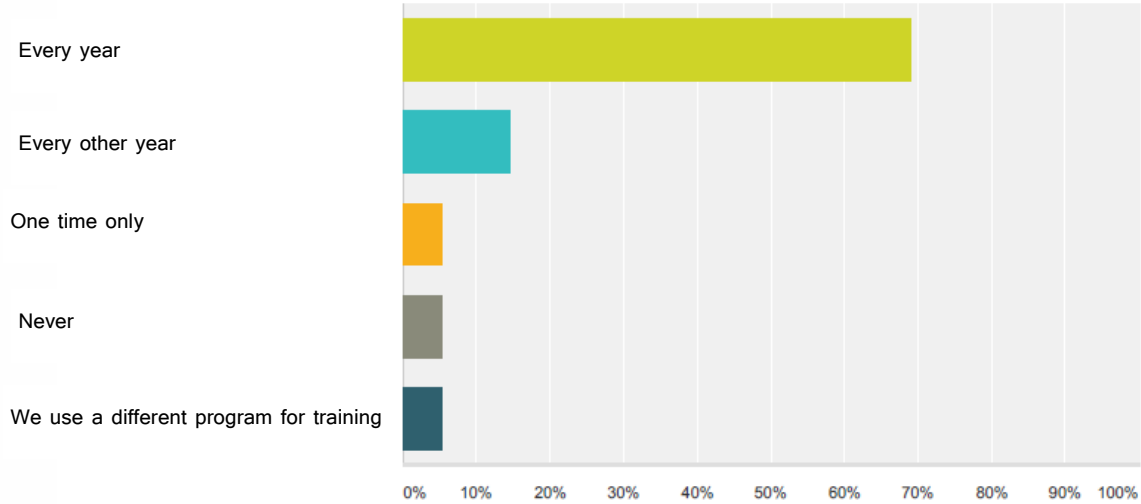
Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



Office Child and Youth Protection Survey

Q5 For grades K - 5th, how often do you provide the Safe Sheep Training?

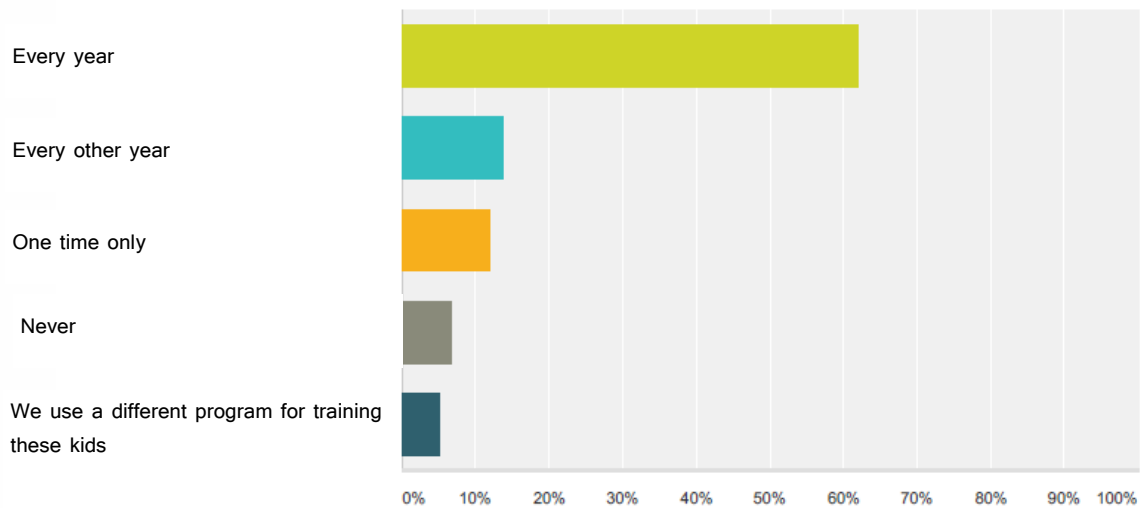
Answered: 55 Skipped: 5



Office Child and Youth Protection Survey

Q6 For grades 6th - 12th, how often do you provide the Praesidium Training?

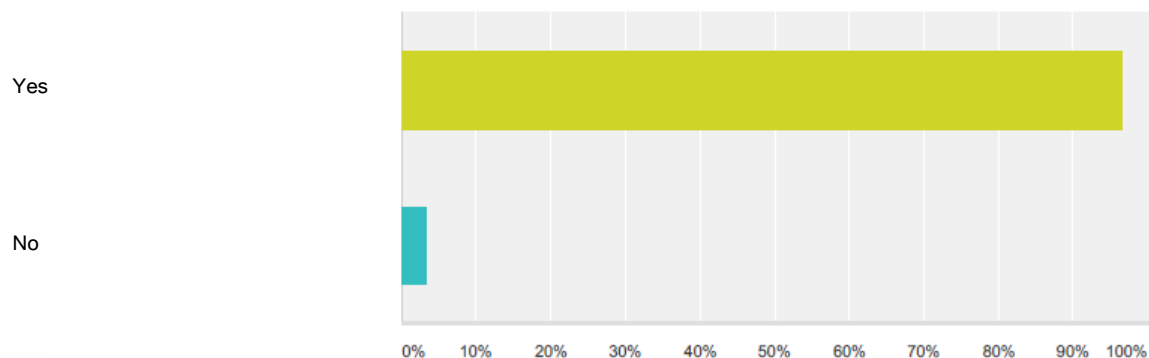
Answered: 58 Skipped: 2



Office Child and Youth Protection Survey

Q7 Do you maintain a current list of active volunteers each school year?

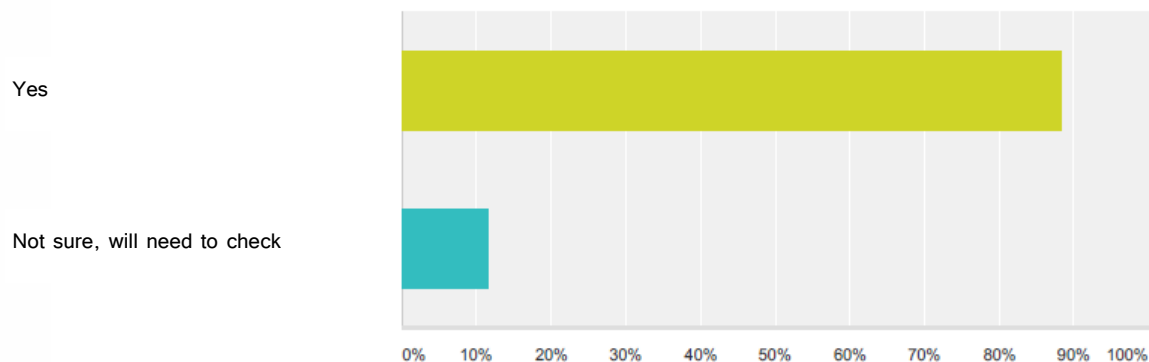
Answered: 59 Skipped: 1



Office Child and Youth Protection Survey

Q8 I am confident that the adults who have unsupervised contact with the minors in my parish religious education program or school have a current criminal background check on file and have completed the Protecting God's Children training.

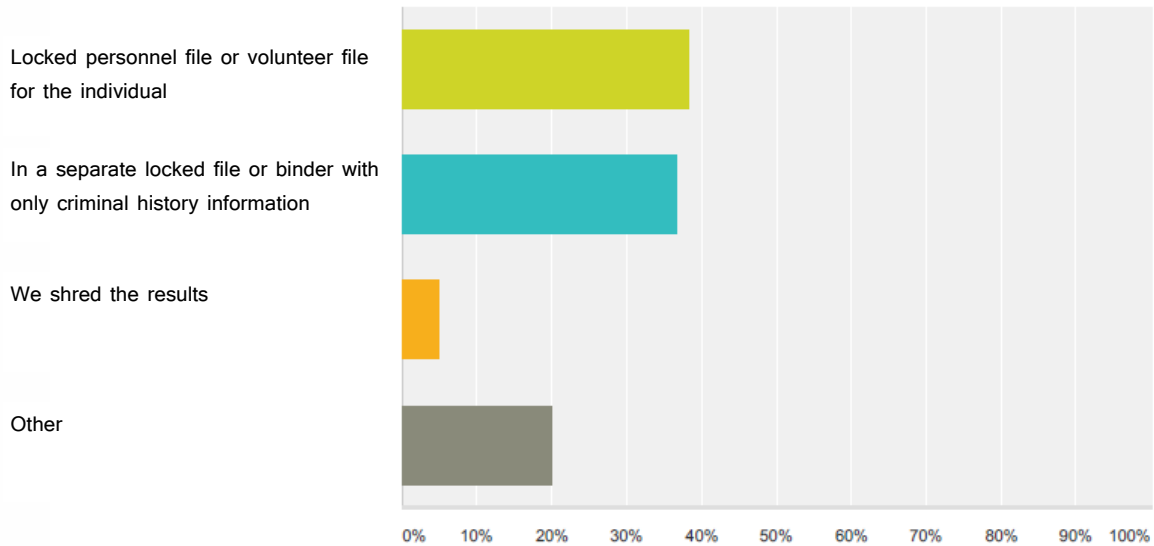
Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



Office Child and Youth Protection Survey

Q9 Where do you keep the results of the criminal background check?

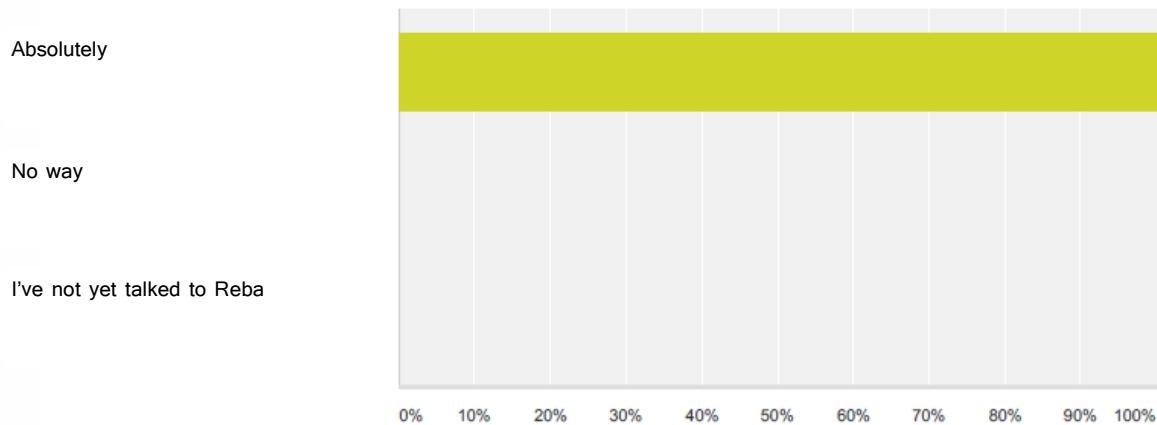
Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



Office Child and Youth Protection Survey

Q10 Do you feel comfortable communicating with Reba Sommer from the Safe Environment Office when you have questions?

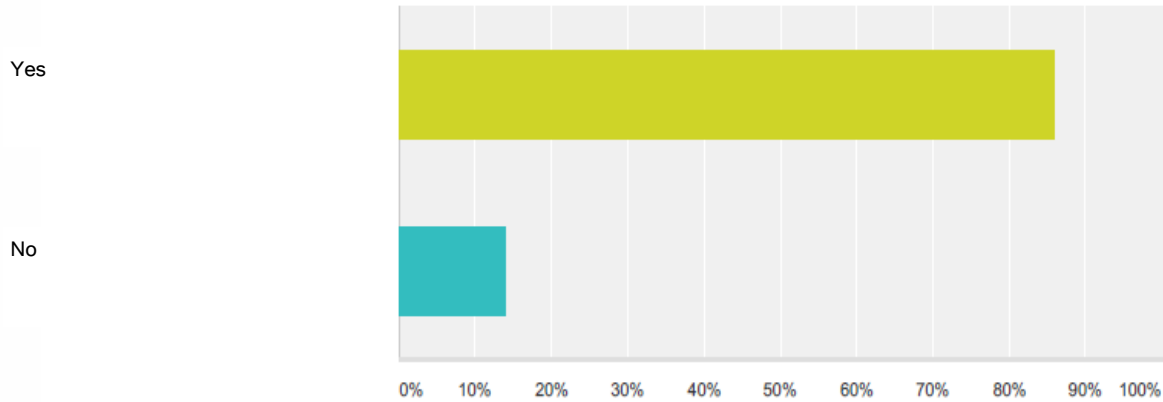
Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



Office Child and Youth Protection Survey

Q11 Do you use DOL Data to report your Child and Youth Protection information for the annual audit?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 3



Office Child and Youth Protection Survey

Q12 I need more information about:

Answered: 15 Skipped: 45

