

# PROMISE TO PROTECT



## PLEDGE TO HEAL

IN THE



# CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LANSING

NOVEMBER

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE

OFFICE OF CHILD AND

YOUTH PROTECTION



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LANSING

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Two weeks ago Jon and I went to Rochester, MI where our youngest son Samuel is a junior Musical Theater major at Oakland University. He had the lead role in the fall musical and I could hardly wait to see him, let alone see the performance. As we pulled into campus that evening my mind went back to the first day of freshman parent orientation. Two words sum up my emotions that day; uncomfortable and uncertainty. As we sat in that freshman orientation room full of “freshman” parents feeling the same emotions, one parent raised her hand and asked the most important question any parent could have asked, “Where do you rank for campus safety in the state of Michigan?” The presenter proudly said, “**We rank second in our state.**” My hand shot up and Jon leaned over and said, “What are you doing?” I looked back at him and said, “I am going to ask why the university doesn’t ranked **FIRST?**” A sincere **Thank You**, to every single one of you reading this for being so diligent in making sure our young people are safe and secure. We have much to be thankful for in our Diocese.

**Helpful Reminders.** ALL volunteers who are working in any capacity with minors are required to take VIRTUS training and have a Background Check completed **BEFORE** they volunteer.

- Any volunteer living in Michigan *less* than 10 consecutive years will need to have a nationwide background check.
- Any volunteer living in Michigan 10 consecutive years or longer will need an iCHAT background check.

The **Peer Audit Training** team has been working with parishes this summer and fall on how to make certain each location is 100% compliant and each location’s VIRTUS database is current and manageable. We are receiving very positive feedback on our efforts.

**VIRTUS Account Change .** Going forward, when a VIRTUS account is created, **individuals will have 5 days to complete the online training.** If the training is not completed within 5 days, the incomplete account and training will be deleted and the individual will need to begin all over again creating a new account and begin the training again. There is a message for new users at the beginning of the registration and also on the Online Instructions posted on the DOL website.

By doing this, you should no longer have a growing list of incomplete accounts and you will no longer see pending accounts that are from years ago. Your individual list becomes more current and your VIRTUS database becomes more manageable. Over the last six months, I have been slowly cleaning these incomplete accounts up as some date back to the early 2000s.

Over the years the VIRTUS database has grown to hundreds and hundreds of accounts that were created and then abandoned for one reason or another (creating an account and never starting the training or starting the training and never completing it).

In addition, VIRTUS is making some changes in their database so please bear with them as they work through some issues that the changes are causing. Let me know if I can help you if you have questions.