

# Safe Environment Program



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## **Purpose of the Office**

All children, deserving of complete respect due to their dignity as children of God, are to be protected from harm. The purpose of the Safe Environment Program is to provide a cohesive and integrated plan and training for the Diocese of La Crosse which is accountable for achieving the goals of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*

## **Work of the Office**

- To provide a training program in Safe Environment for all clergy, religious, parish employees and anyone who volunteers with youth.
- To offer training in Safe Environment to all parents of Catholic youth in the Diocese of La Crosse.
- To provide training and resource updates for those who have already been trained.
- To oversee the background checks and filing of confidential forms of all clergy, religious, parish employees and volunteers.
- To oversee the preparation of all safe environment records for the Annual Audit of the Charter of the USCCB.

## **Resources available for Parishes and Schools**

- All training programs in Safe Environment are made available online at [www.dioceseoflacrosse.com](http://www.dioceseoflacrosse.com).
- The online site provides resources, informational materials, and forms for the Safe Environment Program.
- All parishes are to have an updated Safe Environment binder which contains the same resources found online.

Jesus extended this care in a tender and urgent way to children, rebuking His disciples for keeping them away from Him: “Let the children come to me.” -Matthew 19.14