



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

April 21, 2010
Year for Priests

Dear Friends in the Lord:

Since the issuance of the *Bishops' Charter on the Protection of Children and Young People*, the archdiocese has maintained its commitment to ensuring the safety of all children and young people entrusted to our care.

To that end, it is appropriate for me to reaffirm certain essential requirements:

1. All clergy and candidates for ordination must be in full compliance with the requirements established by the Safe Environment Program (i.e., a background check and training).
2. All other persons, both employees and volunteers, who are in regular contact with children and young people in our institutions and programs must be in full compliance with the Safe Environment requirements (i.e., a background check and training). The required background check must be completed before any person begins work.
3. All persons working in archdiocesan institutions must comply with the Code of Conduct for Laity or Clergy, and with all other relevant Safe Environment policies.
4. Any person who is not in full compliance with these requirements must be excluded from any contact with children and young people in the institutions and programs of the archdiocese.
5. All children and young persons in our schools and religious education programs must receive annual Safe Environment instructions every year, and related information must be provided to their parents. The approved curriculum for such lessons, entitled "Right, Safe, and Good Relationships," has been issued by our Department of Education.
6. Pastors, principals, directors of religious education, and directors of other archdiocesan agencies and programs are responsible for implementing and enforcing all Safe Environment requirements.
7. Any incident involving sexual misconduct or abuse of children and young persons must be immediately reported, and will be handled according to the policies established by the archdiocese, including full cooperation with civil authorities.
8. Any victim of sexual abuse will be offered appropriate professional and spiritual assistance to help with the consequences of misconduct.

I am very happy to acknowledge -- and I thank all who have implemented --this important program here in the archdiocese. Our record in this regard is extraordinary, and serves as a testament to the dedication of our clergy, religious, and laity of the archdiocese to provide safe environments for our children and young people.

With prayerful best wishes and kind regards, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of New York