

PREVENTION, PROTECTION, ACCOUNTABILITY

May 2020

Safe Environment Office

The Diocese of Stockton affirms its continued commitment to provide a safe environment for its children under the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in 2002. We are serious about our responsibility to our children, youth and vulnerable adults as we constantly review our policies and procedures.

The Safe Environment Office is in the process of updating the list of Safe Environment Coordinators for all locations throughout the Diocese of Stockton. Our goal is to have a training session for all Coordinators as we prepare for the 2019-2020 Compliance Audit as required by the United Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Victims' Assistance Coordinator manages and submits the paperwork as well as acts as liaison between Bishop Cotta and the USCCB in regards to the audit.

The Safe Environment Department communicates with all locations and collects data compiled by each Safe Environment Coordinator in regard to the number of priests, deacons, God's Children, educators, employees and volunteers that have completed the Virtus online training, "Protecting and background checks. Those who have not completed these requirements receive a reminder that they must do so immediately in order to ensure all protocol is being followed. The number of children and youth who participated in the classroom course entitled "Circle of Grace" is also tallied. Information submitted by each location is accompanied by a letter signed by each pastor verifying that children enrolled in our Catholic schools, grades K- 12, and religious education classes are receiving this curriculum. Any discrepancy in the totals must be explained.

The audit process provides an opportunity for the location Coordinators to review their records to make sure all employees and volunteers have completed the requirements as set forth in the Charter.

The Diocese of Stockton has been found to be in compliance with the Charter each year since it's inception.