

**ATTENTION PARISH COMMUNICATION STAFF AND BULLETIN EDITORS:**

**(Updated September 28, 2020)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FIVE BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS IS PLACED IN YOUR PARISH BULLETIN, POSTED ON YOUR PARISH'S SOCIAL MEDIA, SHOWCASED ON YOUR PARISH WEBSITE, OR PUBLISHED IN YOUR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH.**

Graphics that coordinate with these announcements are available on [www.diocesepb.org/bulletins](http://www.diocesepb.org/bulletins). Please email a sample of one of the options above per quarter to the Safe Environments Office at [LLinnell@Diocesepb.org](mailto:LLinnell@Diocesepb.org). This documentation is required for the auditors as proof of compliance.

**1. The Diocese of Palm Beach's Office of Safe Environments is a resource for those in the community:**

The Diocese of Palm Beach is committed to the safety and protection of minors and vulnerable adults in its care. Visit [www.diocesepb.org/safe-environments](http://www.diocesepb.org/safe-environments) for information on policy and procedures, education, background screening, real life and online safety resources, parenting tips, and helpful websites. The Diocese has implemented numerous procedures to minimize risk, build barriers, and continue to foster a culture of safe environment.

**2. Diocese of Palm Beach's Commitment to the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults:**

The Diocese of Palm Beach is committed to the safety and protection of minors and vulnerable adults in its care. Victims of abuse by Church personnel (clergy, religious, employees, and volunteers) are encouraged to contact law enforcement. Victims may also contact the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (561) 775-9558 to begin the necessary emotional, psychological and spiritual healing. For more information on diocesan policies and procedures for reporting abuse, as well as to view the "USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," visit [www.diocesepb.org/safe-environments](http://www.diocesepb.org/safe-environments).

**3. Diocese of Palm Beach's Dedication to Prevention of Abuse Through Training and Education of Adults**

The Diocese of Palm Beach is committed to the safety and protection of minors and vulnerable adults in its care. If you are interested in attending the VIRTUS adult education class, "Protecting God's Children," visit [www.diocesepb.org/safe-environments](http://www.diocesepb.org/safe-environments) and click on "Virtus Training" to find a session. All employees and volunteers that work with children are mandated to attend a session, but all parishioners are encouraged to participate.

#### **4. Diocese of Palm Beach's Dedication to Prevention of Abuse through Training and Education of Children**

The Diocese of Palm Beach is committed to the safety and protection of minors and vulnerable adults in its care. The prevention of child abuse is challenging and requires more than adult awareness, education, and training about the nature and scope of the problem. The "VIRTUS Teaching Safety – Empowering God's Children" program enables the parents, teachers, catechists, and youth ministers to give minors the tools they need to protect themselves from those who might harm them. All children in the Diocese of Palm Beach parishes and schools are instructed biannually with tools that empower them in personal safety. To learn more, visit [www.diocesepb.org/education-and-training-of-adults-children-and-youth](http://www.diocesepb.org/education-and-training-of-adults-children-and-youth).

#### **5. Diocese of Palm Beach's Commitment to the Protection of Vulnerable Adults:**

The Diocese of Palm Beach is committed to the safety and protection of vulnerable adults in its care. Specific training is available for those who work with vulnerable adults (people over the age of 18 years, whose ability to perform normal activities of daily living are impaired due to a mental, emotional, long-term physical or developmental disability, or dysfunction, brain damage, or the infirmities of aging). Visit [www.diocesepb.org/safe-environments](http://www.diocesepb.org/safe-environments) and click on "Vulnerable Adults" to learn more. All volunteers that work with vulnerable adults are mandated to complete training, but all parishioners are encouraged to participate.