



The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367
317-236-1403

June 3, 2013

Dear Pastors, Administrators, Parish Life Coordinators, School Presidents, Principals, Parish Catechetical Leaders, Pastoral Associates, Youth Ministers, Business Managers, and Agency Directors:

As a Church, we cherish life and seek to protect the most vulnerable among us from harm. One of the most important ways the Archdiocese of Indianapolis demonstrates its commitment to protecting children is through the educational programs it offers employees and volunteers to keep children safe. Our Archdiocese is deeply committed to the well-being and safety of children in our care, and I am pleased to announce a new program to enhance our child protection efforts.

Effective August 1, 2013, all **new** clergy, employees, and volunteers who work with children will be required to complete an online training program called Safe and Sacred, which replaces our current Virtus program. The Safe and Sacred program offers many important advantages:

- Convenient online access in both English and Spanish 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, as well as printed copies of the program on request
- One common database to track child protection training, background checks, and Code of Conduct compliance with access for appropriate personnel at each location
- Assessment of learning at the end of the training to ensure program content can be applied
- Information on physical abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect in addition to child sexual abuse, promoting greater awareness and vigilance in all aspects of child protection

As of August 1, 2013, our policy requires completion of the Safe and Sacred program **before** an individual's first day of ministry, employment, or volunteer service. From the very first day, we want every new priest, deacon, employee, and volunteer who works with children to understand risks to their safety and how to report concerns. Before anyone is permitted to work with or minister to children, they need to know how to keep children safe.

All clergy, employees, and volunteers who have completed the Virtus program will continue to receive monthly online Virtus bulletins through December 2013. In January, they will re-certify through the Safe and Sacred program, which involves one online session. More information will be sent early in 2014.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in implementing this important new program to protect children. I am grateful for your leadership and commitment. More information will be provided to you over the next few weeks. Please contact the Human Resources Office at (317) 236-1594, (800) 382-9836, ext. 1594, or hr@archindy.org with any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,

Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archdiocese of Indianapolis