



April 2019

Dear Safe Environment Coordinator,

We are once again preparing for the annual Safe Environment Audit that will be conducted this September. This year, Stonebridge Partners will conduct our audit on-site. Therefore, there are some of you who will experience the on-site audit directly at your parish and/or school.

The purpose of the audit is to verify that the Diocese of Gary is in compliance with the USCCB Charter, "Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal." Many of you continue to focus your time with auditing your parish/school data in VIRTUS Online. Last year, this effort proved valuable when you completed your audit forms as many of you were able to rely on VIRTUS Online compliance reports for collecting and verifying your data.

This year, we were excited to implement the VIRTUS Online children's program, "Empowering God's Children". Every parish/school child should receive the training of **Year 1 Lesson 1: Touching Safety Rules**. With every parish/school conducting the same training each year for the appropriate grade levels, our audit information will be consistent, updated, and exceed the standards of USCCB and Stonebridge Partners auditors. If your parish/school did not use the VIRTUS Online training, please contact Cheryl Grandys.

Please collaborate with your parish Director of Religious Education, Youth Minister, School Principal and others in completing the report. It is important that these reports be returned to Cheryl Grandys in the Human Resources Office before **Friday, June 7**.

Thank you for your prompt response and cooperation. Cheryl and Kelly Venegas will be working directly with the assigned auditors. If you have any questions, please direct them to Cheryl Grandys (219-769-9292, ext. 277).

Blessings,

Safe Environment Committee

Cheryl Grandys  
Kelly Venegas