

All children have the right to be safe and protected from harm in all environments ~ home, school, religious institutions, neighborhoods and communities.



The Diocese of Syracuse embraces this right to safety and is dedicated to promoting the protection of children and young people. It will continue to take steps to create a safe environment, to prevent child sexual abuse, and to bring the healing ministry of the diocese to bear wherever possible.



Contact Information

Your Site Coordinator

Safe Environment Program Coordinator

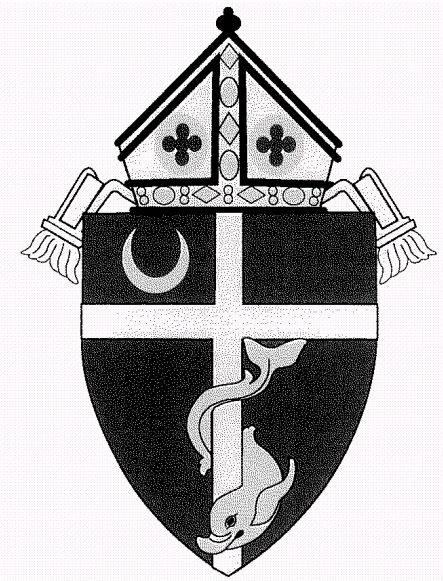
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Victim Assistance Coordinator

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DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

Safe Environment Program
Child & Youth Protection

**A Guide
for
Employees
&
Volunteers**

FAQs

**What is the VIRTUS
“Protecting God’s Children”
training?**

This adult awareness program is nationally recognized. The sessions, which are 3 hours in length, cover the warning signs of child sexual abuse. The facilitator also leads the group through a 5-part plan that builds the full barrier system between children and those who would do them harm.

There is also a mandatory criminal background check required by participants in order to be in contact with children and youth.

When do I need to attend?

Employees and volunteers must complete a training session within 60 days from the start of their duties.

**Who needs to attend the
VIRTUS “Protecting God’s
Children” Safe Environment
training?**

- All clergy,
- All religious
- All employees and
- Any volunteer who has contact with children and youth.

**Can youth attend a “Protecting
God’s Children” session?** Yes ~ youths between the ages of 16 and 18 years may attend with pre~approval by their parent or guardian.



Where are sessions held?

“Protecting God’s Children” sessions are held regularly throughout our diocese. Please go to www.syracusediocese.org and click on Child & Youth Protection/ Training to view the schedules and pre-register.

How often do I need to recertify? Every five (5) years.

Where do I find training for recertification?

“Keeping the Promise Alive” sessions are offered throughout the diocese. Please go to www.syracusediocese.org and click on Child & Youth Protection/ Training to view the schedules and pre-register.

Who can I call with a report or a concern of abuse?

The diocese is committed to the protection of all children and young people. If an individual believes he/she may have been harmed or knows of someone who has been harmed by a member of the clergy or other diocesan personnel, please contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Nuala Collins, immediately. (contact information is found on the reverse side of this brochure.)