



Go Make Disciples

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

July 23, 2019

Dear Pastors, Facilitators, DRE's and Principals

In September of 2018, the Archdiocesan Office of Safe Environment Office sent notification to all parishes, mission and schools requiring anyone trained in Safe Environment before June 2014 be retrained using the DVD *Recognizing and Report Child Abuse* (2014).

For the past four years, our attention has focused on fighting the serious problem of pornography. The additions to the Code of Conduct in 2014 reflect a revision to the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth* addressing that exposing a minor to pornography is a serious offense and falls into the category of abuse. In addition, in 2017 the archdiocese adopted the Social Media Guidelines addressing the increasing presence of instant information about one's personal and private activity.

Therefore, the Safe Environment Office is asking, with the endorsement of Archbishop Coakley, that all employees and volunteers:

1. Sign the Code of Conduct dated June 2014
2. Social Media Guidelines dated 2017
3. View the DVD distributed in May 2014 *Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse*

All employees and volunteers who wish to continue in ministry must complete the required safe environment protocol by **August 30, 2019** or be placed as 'inactive' and unable to volunteer until the necessary retraining is completed. Parish and School Facilitators have offered numerous opportunities for training over the past 9 months. Everyone who has contact with minors and vulnerable adults need to be clear on the current law and our obligation to report immediately even the suspicion of child abuse. Keeping oneself knowledgeable and compliant with state and archdiocesan requirements reaffirms our commitment to *Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal*.

Sincerely,

Maggie Beckham
Safe Environment Coordinator