

St. Joseph Parish & School
825 Second Street - Verona, PA 15147
StJoVeSafe@gmail.com or (412) 965-9874
Fran Morrow - Safe Environment Coordinator



THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

Safe Environment Certification Process for Volunteers

Excerpt from a letter from the Very Reverend Lawrence A. DiNardo VG/VS

"We follow a savior whose love for children was so great that he called all of us to care for them. This is why for many years the Diocese of Pittsburgh has exceeded all child protection requirements of both civil law and the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. We are dedicated to doing our utmost to ensure that children and youth in the care of the Church come to no harm of any kind.

Parish Mission Statement: St. Joseph Parish is a faith community, rich in history and strong in its Catholic tradition since 1866. Through the grace of the Eucharist and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to building up the Body of Christ through a strong spiritual life, education in the faith and service to our parish and community.

If you feel you are being called to serve as a volunteer in the Parish or School, please also be willing to commit to the protection of children and youth by completing each of the requirements before entering into service.

To obtain instructions on HOW to complete each of the requirements, Contact the Safe Environment Coordinator (SEC), Fran Morrow, at StJoVeSafe@gmail.com or 412-965-9874.

Safe Environment Requirements

- ❖ All Volunteers are required to complete steps #1-#4 prior to entering into service.
 1. Register in the Diocesan Safe Environment Database – A Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check is automatically generated when the application is completed and submitted. Also includes: Code of Pastoral Conduct and The Child Protective Services Law documents.
 2. Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance
 3. FBI Clearance - Note: Individuals who have lived in Pennsylvania continuously for the past 10 years are eligible to sign a Waiver/Disclosure Form in place of obtaining this clearance.
 4. Protecting God's Children Workshop (3-hour training certificate)
- ❖ Volunteers who will work with children in the School, Faith Formation Program or Parish must also complete step #5 (Policy: Safe Environment for Children, Appendix D).
 5. Mandated Reporter Training (3-hour training certificate)
- ❖ Copies of all Clearances/Waiver/Certificates (steps #2-#5) must be provided to the SEC either by e-mail or by sending them to the Rectory or School Office.

Additional information can be obtained through the Diocese of Pittsburgh website diopitt.org – Safe Environment Compliance – Essential Documents

- The compliance process could take several weeks to complete. Each step must be completed before volunteer service may begin.
- Your compliance in the Safe Environment Program is valid in all Parishes and Schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Secondary Sites can be added and Primary Sites can be transferred at any time by contacting the SEC.
- **If you do not have access to a computer**, paper applications can be obtained through the SEC and live trainings are available.