

PROMISE TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO HEAL

SECRETARIAT OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Our Safe Environment Program:

The Child and Youth Protection unit of the Diocese of Trenton works with parishes and schools to ensure that all employees and volunteers that have regular and consistent contact with children receive the proper training and have current criminal background checks. This training gives employees and volunteers the safety tools that they need to use in all aspects of their lives. We also assist parishes and schools in implementing and scheduling VIRTUS training programs for both adults and children.

We currently offer the following training programs through VIRTUS
(www.virtusonline.org).

***VIRTUS Protecting God's Children for Adults**

This program helps the adults in our society to recognize the warning signs of a potential offender and how to appropriately respond.

For more information, please contact
rectoryoffice@olgcc.net

Attention Volunteers

Are you compliant?

As mandated by the Diocese of Trenton Office of Child and Youth Protection, the following areas of compliance must be adhered to for all volunteers who wish to work in the parish while children are present. Or in a ministry working with the vulnerable.

- 1.) Application** – complete volunteer application.
- 2.) VIRTUS Training** –Virtus attendance is only valid for four years, You must attend a recertification session prior to December 31st of the fourth year if you wish to continue volunteering in ministry.
- 3.) Criminal History Background Check**-a background check will be conducted through fingerprint analysis by the NJ State Police, through the private service of IdentoGo.
 - A.) All new volunteers and employees are subject to a fingerprint scan for their initial screening. Once your clearance certificate is received, volunteers will be reimbursed for the cost of the background check.
 - B.) On the 4th year of ministry you will be required to have your background check reevaluated.
- 4.) Diocese of Trenton Volunteer Code of Conduct**- a document drafted by the Diocese of Trenton that outlines the behavioral expectations for anyone volunteering at a diocesan facility.

Protecting our children and families is a main priority for the administration and staff of our parish and all parishes and schools located within the Diocese of Trenton. While we understand the demands on your time as volunteers, our first concern must be the safety of everyone placed in our care during the course of your ministry. Therefore, we require that these three areas of compliance be satisfied before you begin your ministry at our parish.

If you should have any questions or need further information please contact:

**Mary Szmuto
Safe Environment Coordinator
mszmuto@olgcc.net
609-882-3277 ext 3**

Diocese of Trenton: Our Promise to Protect

The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the

Diocesan Abuse Hotline: 1-888-296-2965 or
via email at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org.

The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.