



THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

Office
of the
Bishop

July 13, 2016

Dear Friends,

May God's blessings be with you. With this letter I am pleased to give my whole hearted support to the continued implementation of the diocesan safe environment programs:

- Virtus® *Protecting God's Children* training program for clergy as well as diocesan, parish and Catholic school employees, volunteers who have regular contact with children, and parents.
- Virtus® *Teaching Touching Safety* training program for children in Kindergarten through 12th grade enrolled in parish religious education programs and Catholic schools.

In addition, the diocesan Safe Environment Procedures remains in effect.

For information about the Safe Environment programs contact Bill Holtmeyer, director, Office of Child and Youth Protection at billholtmeyer@dioscg.org or 417-866-0841.

The creation of safe environments for children, youth and vulnerable adults of the diocese is a responsibility I take very seriously. I wish to thank all of our clergy and lay faithful for the work and diligence already given to this important matter. I commend, in particular, all of the Virtus facilitators and local safe environment coordinators who have aided so many by their generous service.

May God continue to bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward M. Rice".

Most Reverend Edward M. Rice
Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau