



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Remaining committed to the promises of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People ("Dallas Charter"), the Diocese of Venice has pledged to promote healing and reconciliation for the victims of abuse and to respond to any allegations.

One of the principal means of carrying out this commitment is the Diocesan Safe Environment Program. This is required for all Priests, Religious, Deacons, employees, and those volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults. It is also required for me, your Bishop.

The sacrifices and efforts made by all participants in advancing this goal, not only to continue to bring awareness about abuse, but to create a safe environment for all, are recognized and greatly appreciated. In these efforts, the Diocese has worked and continues to work to make the process more accessible.

In addition to doing all that is possible to protect children and vulnerable adults and to promote awareness of abuse, the Diocese places a priority on bringing healing and reconciliation to victims. It is my prayer that God will bring peace to those who suffer or have suffered from abuse.

Only in working together, can Parishes, Schools, and Diocesan entities, as well as the clergy, countless dedicated volunteers, and staff members strive to ensure a safe environment for all. To confirm compliance, the Diocese is audited by an independent firm on an annual basis. Last year, Stonebridge Business Partners conducted the audit and found the Diocese in compliance. A copy of the Charter Audit and Compliance Letter may be found on the Diocesan website. These results are shared in the interests of trust and transparency.

All People of God are responsible, both individually and as part of the community of Faithful, to bring awareness of these issues and to work tirelessly in protecting children and vulnerable adults. Therefore, let us all be steadfast in our continued commitment to provide a safe environment throughout the Diocese of Venice.

Please join me in prayer that Almighty God may continue to guide us in our commitment to protecting His people and grant healing to those who have been abused.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida

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