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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE

July 1, 2021

To: The Christian Faithful of the Diocese of Knoxville

As I do each year, I express my firm commitment to complying with policy #20.1 (*Policy and Procedures Relating to Sexual Misconduct for the Diocese of Knoxville*) and implementing the required procedures. I further acknowledge that the Diocese of Knoxville provides safe environment training to the following individuals: priests, deacons, candidates for ordination, educators, diocesan employees, volunteers and children/youth. I approve of all of these training programs as being in accord with Catholic moral principles.

Effective July 1, 2020, the Diocese of Knoxville has implemented the CMG Connect platform to administer the Safe Environment Program, which replaces the former Safe Environment Program (VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children). CMG connect is a new web-based platform that will assist us to ensure that all employees and volunteers who are in a position of trust with children and vulnerable adults within our schools and parishes are trained to recognize behavior patterns of potential abusers and provide pro-active measures for preventing abuse in any context.

"Safe Haven-It's Up to You" is a three-part video which provides vignettes of real-life situations to educate the viewer about methods of grooming, desensitization, bullying and neglect, all of which can lead to abuse. Each part of the video is immediately followed by a brief questionnaire to further develop understanding.

In addition, the mandatory renewal training must be completed every 5 years and a new background check submitted before the 5 year expiration of prior training. The Diocese of Knoxville Safe Environment compliance training and renewal training is a condition of employment and for volunteer ministry in the Diocese of Knoxville.

Additionally, the Diocese of Knoxville Keeping Kids Safe curricula and materials for our "Children/Youth" (diocesan generated, age-specific training program) will continue to be utilized.

I acknowledge that the Diocese of Knoxville requires all priests, deacons, candidates for ordination, educators, diocesan employees, and volunteers who work with (or are in proximity to) children or vulnerable adults, to undergo a criminal background check and read and sign Policy # 20.1.

Most Reverend Richard F. Stika
Bishop of Knoxville

Date: 7-1-2021



Deacon Sean K. Smith
Chancellor

Date: 7-1-2021