

THE SHEPHERD

Safety Coordinator Recognition Award 2024

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you this year's recipient of the Safety Coordinator Recognition Award. This award is given out each year in the month of April (Child Abuse Prevention Month) to a site Safety Coordinator who demonstrates full competence of the Safe Environment Program for the Diocese of Salina and is fully committed to the protection of children.

I am happy to announce this year's winner...

Laura Schwarz



The role of the Safety Coordinator is no small task. It is of great importance and each one serves as an extension of the Safe Environment Office at the Diocese as well as at the USCCB. Laura is very deserving of this award and is an invaluable member of the Safety Coordinator team at the Chancery and to the staff, parents, and students at Sacred Heart Parish and School in Colby. Please join me in congratulating
Laura Schwarz

CMGConnect

Safety Coordinators, please log in weekly to your CMGConnect platform to ensure that all clergy, educators, employees, and volunteers (who minister with minors), have completed all safe environment requirements. Please make any necessary updates, including archiving those users who no longer minister in our diocese.

"I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep"

~John 10: 14-15

All parishes and schools are reminded to place this announcement in their parish bulletins and/or school newsletters/websites quarterly, then provide the Safe Environment Office a copy for diocesan files. If you need to change the format, please contact the SE office.



SAFE ENVIRONMENT GUIDELINES

Education & Screening

All clergy, religious, seminarians/persons in formation, employees, educators, as well as volunteers who minister with minors are required to complete a background check and safe environment training. For more information about safe environment compliance requirements, please contact your parish/school safety coordinator or visit www.salinadiocese.org

Reporting & Victim Assistance

Report allegations of the abuse of a minor to the Department of Children and Families
800.922.5330
KBI Crime Hotline/800.572.7463

If you suspect abuse of a minor by church or school personnel, in addition to contacting civil authorities, use one of the confidential diocesan reporting resources below:

Phone: 866.752.8855
Website: reportandprotect.com
Email: reportabuse@salinadiocese.org
Reports will be responded to promptly by the Victim Assistance Coordinator

To report an incident of sexual abuse and related misconduct by a Bishop or Religious Superior, currently, or in the past, the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service provides a confidential
Hotline: 800.276.1562
Website: reportbishopabuse.org

The Diocese of Salina complies with Kansas laws regarding reporting suspected abuse to civil authorities and cooperates with civil authorities as they investigate reports of suspected abuse by all persons, including, but not limited to church personnel.

Any questions in regards to education, reporting, or victim assistance can be directed to the Safe Environment Office/ Diocese of Salina
785.827. 8746



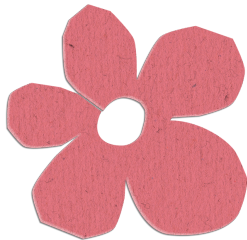


2024 Safety Coordinator Shout – Outs



During the month of MAY, we recognized and honored Loretta Studer. Loretta is the Safety Coordinator of Sacred Heart Parish - Atwood and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Herndon. Loretta began her career at Sacred Heart in September 1997, as part-time secretary. She is now serving as Full-time Office Manager and Director of Religious Education for both Sacred Heart, Atwood and St. Mary's, Herndon parishes. Loretta ensures her parishes are always in compliance, and her attention to detail, and punctuality are what stand out most as Safety Coordinator. Those attributes are most important as we continue to train and educate people in our parishes, schools and community; with our mission, promise to protect, pledge to heal. We greatly appreciate Loretta and all she does in Atwood and Herndon.

‘Be Strong and steadfast; Have no fear or dread of them, for it is the Lord, Your God, who marches with you; He will never fail you or forsake you.’ Deuteronomy 31:6.



Previous Shout-Outs:

- March 2024 Shelly Wahlmeier - Norton, New Almelo
- February 2024 - Amy Hudson - TMP, Hays
- January 2024 Amanda Martin - Goodland



Salina Diocese hits top 10

The Diocese of Salina scores 6th in the top-scoring dioceses of the Voice of the Faithful’s 2023 report called “Measuring and Ranking Diocesan Safe Environment Programs, as reported ONLINE in Diocesan Polices and Practices. Voice of the Faithful has published the second independent, online review of all U.S. Roman Catholic dioceses’ level of compliance with child protection and safe environment guidelines. The initial review, conducted in 2022, found that U.S. dioceses together averaged 67 out of a possible 100 points when measured against the accepted standards. With a score of 91.5% the Salina Diocese ranks in the top tier, amongst 168 other dioceses. Ongoing Protection Efforts: The obligation for all Christians to protect children flows from the ministry and example of Jesus Christ. VOTF’s Child Protection efforts focus primarily on education and on monitoring parish/diocesan child-safety programs to ensure consistent, ongoing vigilance. “Congratulations to all our parish and school Safety Coordinators and to Wendy Backes, Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator, for their on-going efforts and for achieving this level of excellence” Kim Hoelting, HR Director

"to serve is beautiful, but only if it is done with joy, a whole heart and a free mind."



Wendy Backes
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Program Coordinator
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Believe in
the possibility of
help and healing.
There is hope
reportabuse@salinadiocese.org
866.752.8855 ext. 1067
reportandprotect.com

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Human Resources
Director
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