

THE SHEPHERD

THANK YOU!

As we begin a new calendar year, we want to take this opportunity to thank all Safety Coordinators for the work you do in the Diocese of Salina, and share with you a letter Bishop Vincke received from StoneBridge Business Partners last month. This letter represents true commitment and dedication to the Charter and our mission, promise to protect, pledge to heal.

Dear Bishop Vincke:

Based on the results of our recently performed on-site audit of the Diocese of Salina, the diocese has been found compliant with all audited Articles within the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People for the audit period of July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2024. The conclusions reached as to the compliance of your diocese are based upon inquiry, observation, and the review of specifically requested documentation turned in to StoneBridge Partners during the course of the audit. Thank you for your cooperation during this process.

Sincerely,

StoneBridge Business Partners

We sincerely thank you for your ministry as you continue to faithfully implement the Safe Environment Program in your parishes and schools. We will not have another on-site audit until 2027 but, are required to submit data for the data collection process to StoneBridge Business Partners in 2025. Please continue to be vigilant and attentive to the efforts of protecting children and maintaining safe environments so our children can learn, pray and grow.

CMGConnect

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

Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14).

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.



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
of SALINA

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



7-2024



Like Mary, the Mother of God, let us place our lives and the world in the hands of God. Filled with Christ's love, let us be bearers of hope, sharing that hope with others and helping renew the hearts of our brothers and sisters. May God bless the year 2025 with his redeeming grace to bring healing, lasting joy, and peace to all the world.

Happy New Year!

HOW CHILDREN CAN SAFETY VOLUNTEER IN MINISTRY

Volunteering within the church can be a fulfilling experience for children, helping them develop a sense of community, empathy, and responsibility. However, ensuring their safety is paramount. Below are some guidelines for parents and church leaders to ensure children can volunteer safely within the church environment with tasks appropriate for their age. Potential volunteer ideas may be, younger children can help with simple tasks like greeting attendees or distributing programs and the older children can assist with activities like serving food and helping with children's games or sitting with younger ones at mass or during rosary. How are the children in your parish volunteering?



Stay tuned for part 2 of this article in the next issue of the Shepherd, "Keeping a Safe Environment for Child Volunteers"

October, November, and December 2024 Shout - Outs

During the month of October we recognized Keely Meineke. Keely currently serves as Safety Coordinator at St. Edward's Parish in Belleville. Keely is new to the Safety Coordinator Team and is doing amazing work. In November we recognized Megan Nobert safety coordinators of St. John the Baptist in Clyde. Megan has been a long time member of the team and continues to work diligently to ensure safety for all! In December we recognized Mary Harmon and Lucina Roths, the Safety Coordinator Team at St. Elizabeth's Parish, Salina. Their passion for children and to provide safe environments for ALL, is what stands out the most. We greatly appreciate all those recognized these last three months and thank you all for your dedication and support as we continue to provide safe environments in the Diocese of Salina



Wendy Backes
Safe Environment
Program Coordinator
785.827.8746
wendy.backes@salinadiocese.org

Reyna Banda-Torres
Victim Assistance
Coordinator
reportabuse@salinadiocese.org
866.752.8855
reportandprotect.com

Kim Hoelting
Human Resources
Director
785.342.0819
kim.hoelting@salinadiocese.org

