

# THE SHEPHERD

*May the blessings of Christ be always with you and may your New Year be happy and joyful.*

Happy New Year! 2021

*"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*

**Safety Coordinators:**

**As we begin a new calendar year, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for all the work you do in the Diocese of Salina, and share with you a letter Bishop Vincke received from Stone Bridge Partners this fall. This letter represents true commitment and dedication to the Charter; promise to protect, pledge to heal. We sincerely thank you for your ministry as you faithfully implement the Safe Environment Program in your parishes and schools. Sometime in 2021 the Safe Environment Office is scheduled for an on-site audit through Stone Bridge Partners. 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.**



Dear Bishop Vincke:

We are writing to inform you that the Diocese of Salina is in compliance with the data collection requirements for the 2019/2020 Charter audit period. We have reviewed this information and will be forwarding the documents to the Secretariat of Youth and Child Protection for use in the 2020 Audit Report.

Thank you for your cooperation and for participating in the data collection process.

Sincerely,  
Stone Bridge Partners Rochester, New York

*"See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."*

*-Matthew 18: 10)*



Any allegation of the abuse of a minor, may be reported to the Kansas Protection Report Center 800.922.5330 KBI Crime Hotline 800.572.7463 or ClergyAbuse@kbi.ks.gov The Diocese of Salina fully participates in all criminal investigations related to abuse perpetrated by a member of the clergy or other church official.

For the safety of children and healing of those who have suffered abuse, the Diocese of Salina provides Hotline: 866.752.8855 #1067 Website: www.reportandprotect.com Email: reportabuse@salinadiocese.org Reports will be responded to promptly by the Victim Assistance Coordinator.

*"Rescue me, Lord, from my foes, for I seek refuge in you."  
- Psalm 143:9*



Safe Environment Office  
Diocese of Salina

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 Services provides Hotline: 800.276.1562 Website: reportbishopabuse.org

All reports are confidential with the exception of those involving the abuse of minors which will be immediately reported by the Diocese to the proper authorities, as required by Kansas State Law and Diocesan Policy.

## NEWS AND NOTES

### from the Safe Environment Office



**Appendix E- Acknowledgement Form:** Safety Coordinators, if you have not completed collecting these forms, please complete this process as soon as possible. As a reminder, these forms are to be kept at your parish or school office.

**Parish/School Website:** Please be sure when providing a link to the CMGConnect training on your school or parish websites, you are using the following link. <https://salinadiocese.org/office/safe-environment/cm-connect/>.

**Expired users in CMGConnect Data Base:** The CMGConnect data base was designed to track ACTIVE users. If your site has users that have **expired**, and the user **has not** or **is not** going to minister with minors this audit period, please archive them. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact the Safe Environment Office.

**Finally,** In mid-December I took part in a 3-day virtual retreat given by the USCCB-Child and Youth Protection Office. On day 3, Bishop Wack from the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee was the guest speaker and his talk was called "Come as You Are". He included a guided meditation and brief reflection on the Gospel passage Matthew 25: 14-21, with a special focus on verse 21. Along with that, reminding us, from a bishop's perspective, why our work as Safe Environment Coordinators is so important. Bishop Wack offered the following questions to ponder along with our reading for internal reflection. I want to share them with you and have you do the same:

- What are some small things that I or others have done in the past that have made a big difference?
- What "small things" is God asking you to be faithful to right now (personally and professionally)?
- Given that a lot of our work as the Safe Environment Coordinator is to maintain very strict and comprehensive practices, how can we take what is mundane and make it ever fresh?
- What is the one thing you have learned about yourself as you have worked to provide a safe environment for all of God's children?

*2021 is here....are you READY?*

**PROMISE**  
To Protect



Pledge  
To HEAL

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CATHOLIC DIOCESE  
of SALINA