

Diocese once again in compliance with *Charter*

by Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM
Diocesan Safe Environment
Coordinator

On June 14, 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) approved the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. This *Charter* addresses the Church's commitment to deal appropriately and effectively with cases of sexual abuse of minors by priests, deacons, employees, and volunteers of the Catholic Church. As required by the *Charter*, each year the Gavin Group, Inc. audits the Safe Environment Program here in the Diocese of New Ulm and in each of the dioceses of the nation to ensure that all programs are in compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

This year, the Diocese of New Ulm had a full onsite audit resulting in the decision that the diocese is in compliance with the *Charter*. This decision was based upon the auditor reviewing reports of compiled data from our parishes and schools regarding the training of our children, as well as our pastoral leaders, employees, and volunteers who provide supervision and/or education of our children.

The compliance of our diocesan program is a confirmation and positive indication of the successful efforts of our entire diocese to keep our children safe

and to promote the healing and reconciliation of all those affected by sexual abuse. The success of this effort is due to the outstanding support of our pastoral leaders and the total dedication of the local safe environment coordinators. Our school principals and teachers, directors of religious education, and catechists have done an outstanding job supervising and implementing the teaching of our children. Likewise, our facilitators have played a critical role in the success of our program by training our pastoral leaders, employees, and volunteers. Their efforts and the documentation they have provided to the diocese have allowed us to demonstrate and assure the USCCB of our ongoing commitment to promote and protect the life and dignity of our children and youth.

The staff of the diocesan Safe Environment Office is grateful to all those individuals who, each and every day, in every parish and school, promote and effectively give witness to our diocesan Code of Conduct and our call to minister to all of God's people and especially to our children in Christ's name.

We ask you to join us in celebrating and giving thanks for the love and compassion of Christ that has been shared among us through the educating efforts of our Safe Environment Program.

Audit Year (July 2008 – June 2009)



For a listing of upcoming diocesan safe environment sessions (VIRTUS) visit www.dnu.org.

8,383 Children and youth trained through our schools and religious education classes

883 Pastoral leaders, employees, and volunteers trained in 45 Virtus sessions around the diocese.

1,453 Background checks done on: employees, volunteers, and speakers coming into our diocese:

353 employee checks

863 volunteer checks

237 motor vehicle checks