

D I O C E S E
of NEW ULM

Office of the Bishop

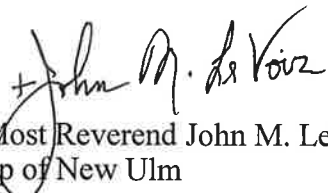
**AFFIRMATION OF THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM
OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW ULM**

In June 2002 the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops established the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, mandating that dioceses are to maintain “safe environment” and training programs which the diocesan/eparchial bishop deems to be in accord with Catholic moral principles. The Charter was updated in 2011 and the training programs continue to be a mandated requirement.

I have carefully reviewed the content of the “VIRTUS: Protecting God’s Children Program,” have sought the advice of experts, and have determined that the program fulfills the requirements for safe environment training mandated for all pastoral leaders, employees, and volunteers with regular or unsupervised contact with children. I initially affirmed this on April 29, 2010 and I choose to reaffirm it at this time. In addition, I affirm the VIRTUS school-age program lessons for fulfilling the requirements for safe environment training mandated for the children and youth participating in parish and Catholic school programs within the diocese.

I reaffirm the decree promulgated on April 29, 2010 stating that the “VIRTUS: Protecting God’s Children Program” is the approved safe environment training program for pastoral leaders, employees, and volunteers in the Diocese of New Ulm. And, I hereby incorporate my affirmation of VIRTUS school-age lessons as the approved safe environment training program for the children and youth participating in parish and Catholic school programs throughout the diocese.

October 16, 2015


The Most Reverend John M. LeVoir
Bishop of New Ulm

