

Refresher Training

Well here we . Another Super Bowl weekend has come and gone. Most of you know that our house celebrates with a Super **Sensitive** Party.

Every year we serve the traditional foods and we all take our traditional places in the living room around the TV. My spouse Jon takes up space on the couch with a lap top and headphones. Sports is not his thing so he watches a Jane Austin movie, hence the **sensitive**. We pick on him, but he doesn't care.

This year, things were quite different. We no longer have kids at home. Our two oldest now own their own homes and our youngest is away at school. When Sam our youngest left for school a year ago, Millie, our middle child moved out the next weekend.

I have surprised myself with my reactions to all the changes. In the beginning the quiet almost hurt my ears and from time to time I still have a bit of an ache that life is different and marching on.

I know it is the way life should be and the way God designed families. HE knows best and I am learning that no matter what and no matter what stage of life any of us may be in, HE is going to bring us through until the stage ends; then HE will bring us through the next and the next.

If I take time to count my blessings they are the completion of the sleepless night stage, the diaper stage, the homework stage, the first broken heart stage, the lying in bed and waiting to hear the car pull up in the driveway stage. I can say, thanks be to God for seeing me through all of those stages times 3.

As I write this, we are making plans for our first wedding and I predict a second one to follow. Prayers please. This stage brings lot of tension.

HE will bring us through any stage we will face.

Oh and by the way, our Super Sensitive party was a hit. We arrived at Millie's, which is our new venue with party food in one hand and a laptop and headphones in the other hand for Jon's sensitive replays.

Many of you have presented the Keeping the Promise Alive refresher course at your location. Thank you! There are a few locations who have not rolled this refresher training out yet. Please understand that if you have employees and current volunteers (meaning volunteers who have contact with minors) who took the VIRTUS - Protecting God's Children before 2014 they need the refresher course in order to be compliant at your location. Our auditors will request this information in August. As always, please let me know if you need any help on how to get started.



IMPORTANT REVISION TO THE CHARTER

There has been a revision to the Child and Youth Protection Charter. The revision states that ALL volunteers who have contact with minors will now need the VIRTUS training AND will need a criminal background check. Prior to this change, only adults with ongoing, unsupervised contact with minors fit into this category, Now it is ALL. I believe for the most part many of you all already do this with any adult who has contact with your kids. In the past, a parent or grandparent who has NO responsibility for a child would come and help in a classroom party with a group of other already VIRTUS trained and background checked adults. At that time, the adult with no responsibility or supervision was not required to take the training or required a background check, that has changed.

The Charter revision has been a work in progress for a few years and was in the middle of revision when the recent scandal came to light. The revisions are not due to the recent scandal but thanks be to God that we are proactive in our ministries.

Points to remember:

All **employees of parish and school** need to take a **live** VIRTUS - Protecting God's Children training session.

All **volunteers** - may take an **online** VIRTUS - Protecting God's Children training session.

A **new parish employee** will need a National Criminal Background Checked processed. This should be done when the new employee registers online for the VIRTUS training.

A new volunteer, who **has** lived in Michigan for 10 consecutive years will need an ICHAT processed by you.

A new volunteer who has **not** lived in Michigan for 10 consecutive years will need a National Criminal Background Checked processed. The completed consent form comes to the Child and Youth Protection Office (Reba Sommer) via email, fax or snail mail.

kNOw PROGRAM

We held the last kNOw training sessions. I am so happy to tell you that during those nine sessions 118 individuals in different ministries throughout our Diocese attended the training workshop and are now preparing to deliver the new program!

Monica Pope has done a beautiful job in training those in our parishes and schools who will in turn deliver this new K-8 safe environment program to parents and students in our Diocese. In each of the training sessions, Monica started the session out with the message to each attendee. "During this time, you will be discerning who at your location is the right person, who can effectively deliver this content and message to your students and parents." What she meant by that is that there is a certain way the content in the program must be delivered. It does not come with a DVD that will provide the message. This program is 100% delivery by the instructor who stands before the class. It is simple, yet rich and profound.

During our training sessions, we took in a lot of feedback from those who attended the training. We made the final revisions and now you will find the content on the Diocese of Lansing website.

We have asked parishes and schools to work together and get creative with getting buy-in from parents to be a part of this important work. Ideas were brought up by those attending the training so I encourage you to talk with neighboring parishes and schools to get ideas and options for your location. Again, if you would like to use Safe Sheep K-5 through the remainder of this fiscal year, June 30 please do so and begin with kNOw 2019-2020 school year.