

PROMISE TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO HEAL

IN THE



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LANSING

FEBRUARY 2020

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE

OFFICE OF CHILD AND

YOUTH PROTECTION



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LANSING

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A few weeks ago I was running late to Mass. This use to be quite a regular occurrence for me when our three children lived at home. When they were infants Jon was hired as our Music Director leaving me at home to get all three ready and out the door on time. I went from feeding and dressing one at a time, carefully planning how much time I had to walking through the house in their teen years screaming, "THE CHURCH BUS LEAVES IN 30, 15, 5 MINUTES AND I HOPE WE DON'T GET STOPPED BY A TRAIN."

Now, it's just me at home and I always think I have far more time than I really do. Especially, when I go to Mass on Saturday night. Last Saturday night I didn't plan my time well and I was the Lector for 4:30 Mass. I was suppose to arrive 15 minutes early. I only live 6 minutes from our church but the car in front of me obviously didn't have the same destination. I am guilty of tailgating and even that did not move them along any faster. As soon as we reached the traffic light, I pulled in the passing lane and blew past them. It was obvious that I was irritated but I didn't care. I had places to be.

I was on my way down main street with one more traffic light to clear. Just as I got to the light it turned red. I glanced in my rear view mirror and the car I blew past stopped behind me. The light turned green, I made my turn and the car behind me followed. My mind started to race and I said out loud, "oh please Lord, do not let them go to Mass." I knew in my heart they would see me walk across the parking lot.

Guess what? Sure enough they turned on to St. Mary Blvd and followed me into the parking lot. I sat in my car and thought, here I am Lord, short on patience and feeling like I am the most important person in the world. I wished for the first time ever that I had not been asked to be the Lector at Mass. Standing up and proclaim the word while all the time wondering if the couple thought, "is she for real?" became a very humbling moment. Proclaiming and living it go hand in hand. I really failed that night.

The **Peer Audit Training** team is working with parishes on how to make certain each location is 100% compliant in VIRTUS. We show you what is needed, how to get it and how to manage it. We are receiving very positive feedback. We are adding parishes to our schedule and if you would like to go through the training sooner than later, please let me know and I can add you to our schedule. Every parish will participate.

kNOw Training is being offered on Thursday, 2/20 and Tuesday 3/3. If you are interested in being a presenter to parents and students or know of someone in your parish/school who may be interested in presenting this safe environment training, please register for one of the sessions.

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/8ef5518050b04ec382a1759feb4b725b>

If you are a **VIRTUS Local Coordinator** and maintain the VIRTUS database for your location, several training sessions are being offered on how to navigate the database, how to look for the items that will make and keep your location compliant, what needs to be documented and what are the DOL policies. This will help you with the audit training (above). If you are interested in learning more please sign up at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/781f7aea97924a20bca20c1cfa8af76f>

I will be attending each **Regional Meeting** next month. If you would like to stop by and ask questions or need help with any safe environment issues please feel free to do so. It will be good to see you!