



ROBERT J. BRENNAN
By the Grace of God and of the Apostolic See
BISHOP OF BROOKLYN



In our ever-changing world which includes the Internet and social media, we must be mindful and attentive to the present risk factors that face our children. We must be prepared to make changes to our policies and procedures when the needs arise. The Diocese of Brooklyn takes seriously the responsibility of protecting our children and vulnerable adults. We, the Church, must continue to acknowledge our responsibility and remain ever vigilant to the task. Since the Adoption of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002, the Diocese of Brooklyn has worked diligently in area of Safe Environment. I am grateful to the thousands of employees and volunteers who have cooperated with the Safe Environment program mandates.

We, as Roman Catholic disciples of the Lord Jesus, are called to model relationships demonstrating respect in all we do. "Human virtues acquired by education by deliberate acts and by perseverance ever-renewed in repeated efforts are purified and elevated by divine grace." (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1810).

As Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, I hereby approve of and promulgate the following safe environment programs for use in this diocese:

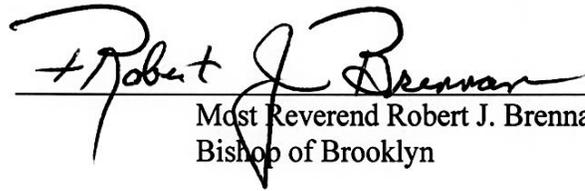
- *Virtus Protecting God's Children for Adults* for all our clergy, religious, employees and those volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults. The training teaches the signs of child sexual abuse, the methods and means by which offenders commit abuse and steps on can use to prevent child sexual abuse. All clergy, religious and employees are required to complete continuing education through the Virtus system by completing monthly bulletins
- *Child Lures Prevention* for all children from grades K-8. The training empowers children to keep themselves safe by teaching them how to recognize, interrupt, stop and report inappropriate behaviors and situations.

Along with training all clergy, religious, employees and those volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults must sign a code of conduct. All adults must submit to a criminal background search. The Diocese will also institute on site audits for parishes and academies to ensure that the Safe Environment mandates are being adhered to and records are being maintained.

The Diocese of Brooklyn has a **ZERO** tolerance policy for abuse. Let us renew our commitment to protect our most vulnerable from all forms of abuse and neglect. To report sexual abuse involving diocesan personnel—priests, deacons, teachers, employees or volunteers at schools or parishes, please call The Diocese of Brooklyn's toll-free, confidential reporting number 1-888-634-4499.

Our Diocese has made great strides in prevention of child sexual abuse however, we constantly face new challenges and must remain vigilant in our efforts. Thank you for your efforts and your commitment to keeping our children, youth and vulnerable adults safe. I ask for your ongoing prayers as we continue together to protect all of God's children.

This ecclesiastical decree concerning the *Safe Environment Mandates and Training* for the Diocese of Brooklyn will be published in the diocesan newspaper and in effect immediately.


Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Brooklyn

Given at this Diocesan Curia
Brooklyn, New York
This 29th day of June 2022

