

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The Diocesan Safe Environment Program has many components. One of those components is VIRTUS, which is designed to help prevent wrongdoing and promote "rightdoing" within religious organizations. It is one means by which the Diocese implements its Safe Environment training, which is required for all dioceses in the United States.

The VIRTUS programs empower organizations and people to better control risk and improve the lives of all those who interact with the Church. - See more at: <http://www.dolr.org/safe-environment> OR <http://www.dolr.org/safe-environment-espanol>

Effective March 1, the Diocese has made the following changes to its Safe Environment Program requirements:

New requirements are as follows:

- 1 **ALL** employees and **ALL** volunteers must **attend** a *VIRTUS Protecting God's Children* training session. These sessions will now be done online unless circumstances require in person training.
- 2 **Background checks** will be done on **ALL employees** and **ALL volunteers** in the parish. For volunteers who do not work directly with minors, the background check only covers the sex offender registry database. All background checks are automatically electronically updated every 3 months.
- 3 **Monthly bulletins** are no longer required. Quarterly eNewsletters will be released for parishes to publish as they wish (bulletin attachments, websites, email, etc.), and they will also be emailed.
- 4 **Online Registration:** All volunteers **MUST** register online. All volunteers must enter information required for background checks (social security number is requested but not required; date of birth is required). The purpose for online registration is to streamline the process and ensure the quarterly background check renewal.

FAQs:

What if I'm already registered for VIRTUS online?

You do not have to create or set up a new account. You will be contacted at the time of your back ground check renewal and asked to input your information into VIRTUS online.

What if I have completed the training but I'm not registered online?

You must register online (instructions at hrclarksville.org). You may contact Monica Frizzell with questions or help with online registration.

What are the requirements for Ushers, Lectors and Eucharist Ministers?

Like all other volunteers, to register online and completed the *VIRTUS Protecting God's Children* training either online or in person.

How do I know if I'm signed up for VIRTUS online?

If you receive monthly emails or have previously received monthly emails regarding VIRTUS bulletins you are registered.

When and How will the first quarterly eNewsletter be published?

The first quarterly eNewsletter from the Diocese will be published in June. The eNewsletter will be posted on the parish website, hrclarksville.org, and a notice will be placed in the bulletin informing parishioners. They will also be emailed to the email address on your VIRTUS account.

What do I need to do if I would like to volunteer in the parish?

Contact Father William about how you would like to volunteer.

What if I'm currently a volunteer but have not completed Safe Environment training?

Contact Monica Frizzell for information on how to complete VIRTUS training.

If you have any other questions please contact Father William or Monica Frizzell.