



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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June, 2010

My Dear People,

In June of 2002, I joined with my brother bishops from throughout the United States in signing the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, "Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal". We reaffirmed our commitment in June of 2005. In this charter, we have pledged to do everything possible to ensure that the children and youth in our parish and school communities will be safe from sexual predators. I continue to reaffirm my personal commitment to that pledge.

Our Archdiocese has developed policies and practices that apply to the important work with children and youth done by clergy, staff and volunteers because these people are the face of the Church. These policies and practices are designed to ensure that young people in our care are safe. All adults working with children and youth have background evaluations (fingerprinting and/or background checks) and must complete a comprehensive online training program "Recognize, Report and Prevent Child Abuse", found on the Law Room website at www.shieldthevulnerable.org.

The programs for children and teens in our Catholic Schools and in our Parish Religious Education programs are as follows:

- Preschool – Grade 3 Child Safety: "Talking About Touching"
- Grades 4 – 8 Kid Safety: online training at (www.shieldthevulnerable.org)
- Grades 9 – 12 Teen Safety: online training at (www.shieldthevulnerable.org)

We affirm parents as the first educators of their children. All of the above programs have opportunities for parent involvement. We encourage parents to attend the workshops for Child Safety: "Talking About Touching" in your schools or parishes, and to take the online training themselves or along with their children.

May God bless all of you in your role as parents, educators and concerned adults working with our children and youth.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend George Niederauer
Archbishop of San Francisco