

Safe environment training opportunities

In June 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued *The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. The Charter calls every diocese to establish safe environment programs "...to be conducted cooperatively with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people." Each diocese is also expected "...to make clear to clergy and all members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons in positions of trust with regard to children."

In accord with the Charter, the Diocese of New Ulm has conducted a safe environment program over the past six years. In 2007, the VIRTUS Protecting God's Children training program was introduced in the diocese and has been the format of the safe environment program ever since. VIRTUS identifies best practices designed to help prevent wrongdoing within religious organizations. VIRTUS has proved to be a good fit for the Diocese of New Ulm as it has an online component that replaces the safe environment program format of speakers and/or DVDs that were part of the past programs.



All employees in the Diocese of New Ulm, as well as volunteers who work unsupervised with minors, are required to attend a VIRTUS training session. Parents and other interested parishioners are also welcome to attend at any scheduled site.

According to Karla Cross, diocesan Director of Catholic Schools, "student required VIRTUS lessons are to be completed by the end of October in schools and by the end of November for the Religious Education programs."

If you or someone you know has been sexually exploited by a member of the clergy and you need to talk with someone about abuse, exploitation, or harassment, please contact the Diocese of New Ulm Victim Assistance Coordinator or the Bishop's Delegate in Matters Pertaining to Sexual Misconduct by Clergy, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; phone: (507) 359-2966.

Si usted, o alguien a quien conoce, ha sido sexualmente por un clero y necesita hablar con alguien sobre abuso, o acoso sexual, por favor ponerse en contacto con el Coordinador de Asistencia para Víctimas de la Diócesis de New Ulm o con el Delegado del Obispo en Asuntos que Pertenecen al Abuso Sexual por Cleros de la Diócesis de New Ulm, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; número de teléfono (507) 359-2966.

Upcoming VIRTUS training sessions

OCTOBER 3, 2009

9:30 a.m. in Litchfield

OCTOBER 12, 2009

6:30 p.m. in Redwood Falls

OCTOBER 24, 2009

9:30 a.m. in Glencoe

NOVEMBER 5, 2009

6:30 p.m. in Sleepy Eye

DECEMBER 1, 2009

6:30 p.m. in Arlington

DECEMBER 12, 2009

9:30 a.m. in Olivia

JANUARY 5, 2010

6:30 p.m. in Morgan

FEBRUARY 11, 2010

6:30 p.m. in Marshall

MARCH 20, 2010

9:30 a.m. in Arlington

Contact your local parish/school office for additional upcoming sessions or visit www.dnu.org.