

**DIOCESE OF NEW ULM**

**POLICY BULLETIN**

November 9, 2015

Administration  
Diocesan 13.6

**Youth/Minor Gatherings at Private Residences**

To the Priests, Religious, and People of the Diocese of New Ulm:

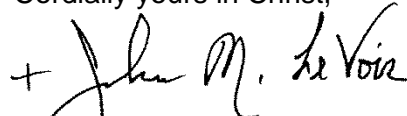
It is the position of the Catholic Diocese of New Ulm that no diocesan, parish or school sponsored youth/minor gathering, event, or activity take place at private residences or rectories. This includes religious education classes, diocesan youth council, and parish youth groups.

Exceptions of this guideline in unique circumstances or its application in uncertain situations shall be made by or at least receive the prior approval of, the Bishop's Delegate in Matters Pertaining to Sexual Misconduct or his delegate through the diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator.

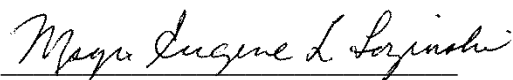
Many well-intentioned pastoral leaders, employees, and volunteers have a desire to open their homes to young people. Even with the best of intentions, this puts young people at risk by making it acceptable in the mind of a young person to enter the residence of an adult. This could later be exploited by another adult whose intentions are not altruistic. It is also not possible to ensure that visiting adults and others living in the private residence have gone through safe environment training and a background check.

This policy is designed to protect both young people and adults. It ensures accessibility to programs, promotes the transparency of programs, and helps establish a safe environment for everyone involved. It also clearly establishes and maintains proper boundaries and does not blur the line between the Church and an individual.

Cordially yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John M. LeVoe".

The Most Reverend John M. LeVoe  
Bishop of New Ulm

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eugene L. Lozinski".

Msgr. Eugene L. Lozinski  
Chancellor

This Policy Bulletin is to be inserted in the Handbook of Diocesan Policies under Administration, Diocesan 13.6, replacing the bulletin of October 29, 2008.