



9/10/10

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### A Note from Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish:

In an effort to continue improving the overall safety of our Church communities, the Diocese of Pueblo has implemented a new safe environment program. This program is intended to educate the parish about how to protect our minors and better serve our vulnerable adults. *Shield the Vulnerable* is an online training tool for clergy, staff, volunteers, parents, and youth/children. All staff, volunteers, parents, and children participating in religious education classes or youth ministry must complete this online learning program. If you do not have access to a computer or the internet, please contact the church office to request a date and time to use a computer in the office.

To access the course, click on the embedded link noted below:

[www.shieldthevulnerable.org](http://www.shieldthevulnerable.org)

When you sign on for the first time you will be asked to create a login ID and a password. Because you are *not* required to complete the entire course all at once, when you sign in subsequently you will be able to return to the precise point in the training that you left off. When you sign in you will note that it asks you to identify your status in the Diocese (e.g. volunteer, employee, parent, teen, youth). You will also identify a location (IHM or HFCS). The entire training takes approximately 90 to 120 minutes. **A certification is provided at the end of the online course which you must print and provide a copy to the parish/school office for their files.**

Children in pre-school and up to 3rd grade will continue to be trained with the Good Touch/Bad Touch training as part of Faith Formation. Students in Faith Formation grades 4-8th will have the opportunity to complete the training in the computer lab on a Wednesday. If you have questions about the training, please contact Nicole Ruiz, Irene Fritzler or Andrea Stanton in the parish office at Immaculate Heart of Mary. You can reach us at 970-242-6121.

Noted below is a letter from Most Reverend Fernando Isern, Bishop of Pueblo regarding the expectations for those who work and volunteer in the Diocese of Pueblo.



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Each and every life in our Diocese is precious and all individuals should be able to expect appropriate treatment and assistance from our diocesan clergy, lay employees and volunteers. In an effort to ensure that this will be the case, we have developed a code of conduct for our clergy, pastoral ministers, administrators, staff and a separate code of conduct for volunteers. All of these individuals should and will be held accountable for their behavior.

So that the Diocese may establish and maintain a high level of accountability, we are presenting a clear representation of our expectations concerning the behavior of the people who work and volunteer in the Diocese of Pueblo.

All clergy, staff and volunteers will receive a copy of the revised code of conduct. I thank you all for the vital work that you perform for our Diocese. May God continue to bless you.

Sincerely,

## Charter for the Protection of Children

At churches and schools across the country, volunteers and employees are participating in programs similar to the one you're taking now.

This online course is part of the Safe Environment for Children Project (SECP). The SECP was created in response to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which was written by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops.

The Charter reaffirms the Bishops' deep commitment to creating a safe environment for children. Every Diocese and Archdiocese in the United States is taking steps to implement the goals established in the Charter.

In addition to providing training to all volunteers and employees, our SECP includes:

- curriculum development for children and parents on child safety
- employee and volunteer screening
- establishing parish-based committees focused on child safety

We all hope to create God-centered loving environments for our children, whether they're at home, school, or in religious education classes. The goal of this training is to create a larger community of adults who are committed to the safety of children, aware of the problem of abuse and neglect, and prepared to protect children from harm.