

ST PIUS X CATHOLIC CHURCH

June 29, 2009

As Christian adults, we have a moral and legal responsibility and are entrusted by God with the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of children. As they participate in activities within or sponsored by our Diocese, it is our responsibility and commitment to provide an environment which is safe and nurturing. – Mission Statement (Diocesan Safe Environment Program for Schools and Parishes)

Dear Lay Minister: (Eucharistic, Spiritual Life, Youth, SVDP, etc.)

At a recent ministry meeting, Fr. Guadagnoli asked that all volunteers who participate in ministries involving children, youth or vulnerable adults complete the St. Pius X Safe Environment Program. Required by the Diocese since 1998, St. Pius has been at the forefront in implementing this program and with your help and cooperation we can continue to be compliant. While this program was initially aimed at providing a safe environment for children, the Diocese soon realized that many of its volunteers were coming into contact with vulnerable adults and even small children via the St Vincent de Paul and Homebound/Ministry to the Sick ministries. Thus, the decision was made to screen those volunteers as well.

The screening process includes completion of the following:

- **Attendance at a required Safe Environment Training Meeting (1 time only--at any parish in the diocese; visit our website for a complete listing)**
- **Screening Application (can be done on-line via our website)**
- **At least two references**
- **Criminal Background Check**
- **Live Interview (in person with your ministry Head)**
- **Signed Safe Environment Acknowledgement form (provided at training session).**
- **Picture ID (especially for school parents and those visiting the Sick or Homebound)**

Many of you are veteran volunteers but have not updated your training in some time. All veteran volunteers (which means you've attended in person at least ONE Safe Environment training since the inception of our program) are asked to update **annually** via our website (www.spxdallas.org – click on “Safe Environment”). We offer several options that meet the annual training requirement, all of which can be done from the convenience of your home. You must choose a different update option each year. If you do not have internet access, you may attend any training the diocese offers (a complete list is on the diocesan website at www.dallas.setanet.org – click ‘Register for Classes’ to view the list.) The required paperwork and annual update training options are always available through the St Pius X website.

New Volunteers should complete the paperwork as soon as possible, prior to attending a meeting; this will allow us to conduct the background checks. All paperwork should be brought to the church office or faxed to the attention of Ginger Farrell (fax 972.686.7510).

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Church. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful, caring parish family. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the church office 972.279.6155 x146 or on the web at gfarrell@spxdallas.org.

Sincerely,

Ginger Farrell
Director of Safe Environment
St. Pius X Catholic Church