

DECREE OF PROMULGATION

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* is a comprehensive set of procedures established by the USCCB in June 2002 for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. The *Charter* also includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability, and prevention of future acts of abuse.

In keeping with the Church's promise to continue our efforts to protect our children and all people from any form of sexual misconduct in our Diocese, I have asked that these Sexual Misconduct Policies be revised and that our Safe Environment Training programs be updated to incorporate the use of modern technology.

The Diocese of Boise has a zero tolerance of sexual abuse. It is behavior that degrades and diminishes the value of each human person and will not be tolerated. Our goal with these policy revisions is to continue to provide tools to protect our youth from the damaging effects of sexual abuse, and to continue to address the issue of sexual misconduct as a whole in our Diocese. These policies are a continuation of those which have been in effect in the Diocese of Boise since 1998, revised in 2003, 2007, and in 2016. They reflect greater vigilance in the protection of children, including establishing ongoing safe environment programs which encompass standards of behavior for all personnel, screening practices, continued training and education for all, including parents and children, as well as an emphasis on formation for the priesthood and permanent diaconate, and continuing formation for all clergy.

The Diocese of Boise's revised policies for sexual misconduct follow the four major headings outlined in the *Charter* and are organized as follows: (1) Protecting the Faithful in the Future; (2) Promoting Healing and Reconciliation; (3) Guaranteeing a Fair and Effective Response to Allegations of Sexual Misconduct; and (4) Ensuring Accountability of Our Procedures.

The Church is comprised of church workers (priest, deacons, seminarians, women and men religious, lay employees and volunteers) and the vast majorities are ethical, competent, mature and dedicated to the protection of all the faithful. In cases where church workers have been less than professional and stepped outside the sacred trust placed in them, the Church must demonstrate accountability for harm that is caused. It is my desire that these policies help uphold this most serious responsibility, along with the continued help of our Diocesan Review Board comprised of experts in psychology, school aged children and the law-both civil and canonical.

First promulgated the 26th Day of August, 2003, the 110th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Boise. Revised March 26, 2007 and now again February 22, 2016, all previous Diocesan norms notwithstanding, these policies are hereby promulgated as particular law for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise and are effective immediately.



Reverend Peter F. Christensen, D.D.
Bishop of Boise



Mark L. Raper, JCL, MCL
Chancellor