



THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

November 2, 2009

Dear Pastors, Principals, Parish Life Coordinators and Agency Directors,

You are all aware of the impact the economy has had on many organizations. The Diocese of Belleville, parishes, schools and agencies are no different than the general public in that regard. Despite the economic challenges that we have faced, I am happy to announce that the 2009-2010 Child Protection Refresher Course is now available.

Although various proposals were considered, a determination was made that the best option is a FREE online resource that was created for the Department of Children and Family Services. The course, *"Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse: Training for Mandated Reporters,"* is an excellent review that parallels the Diocese's Initial Child Protection Policy Training. The course is continuously updated and remains in compliance with current Illinois law. Although the majority of individuals within the Diocese taking this course are not mandated by law to report abuse, Diocesan policy requires that all volunteers and employees follow the same standards as Mandated Reporters. Thus, the course is applicable to all.

Online training affords each participant the opportunity to complete the course at a time and location that is convenient for them, but the course should be reviewed prior to the anniversary of their last training. For individuals who needed refresher course training in August, September or October, the course should be completed as soon as possible, but no later than the end of 2009. Upon completion, individuals should print the Certificate of Completion at the end of training and turn the certificate into their Location Coordinator. The Location Coordinator will send the Certificate of Completion to my office. No facilitators are required for the 2009-2010 course.

This particular course can be taken at a pace desired by the individual. It has interactive components, as well as video. Therefore, a fast connection speed is desirable. In areas of our Diocese that have slower connection speeds, the company has suggested that it may be beneficial to offer a computer lab, recommend the local library, or the use of a friend's or relative's computer to avoid frustration. In addition, there is technical assistance available through the training website for those who may have difficulties.

Thank you for your patience in connection with the implementation of this year's refresher course. I will attempt to have the 2010-2011 course available prior to the start of the school and PSR year.

In Christ,

Lynn Muscarello
Director of Child Protection Services

Office of Child Protection

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