



# THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

*Renew Faith • Build Communion • Inspire Hope*

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Dear Diocesan Families,

As you know, protecting the young people in our parish and school community is one of our top priorities. We believe that part of protecting them includes educating them on how to best advocate for themselves, along with educating them about the dangers that unfortunately exist today. Teaching young people how to navigate the online world as technology advances so quickly can be an overwhelming task. We at the Diocese of Kalamazoo are committed to supporting our families in training their children in safe environment practices.

For the 2025-2026 year, we will once again be using the **Goretti Project** and encourage the use of **Protect Young Eyes** and the *Protect App*. The **Goretti Project** will act as a bridge between parishes/schools and parents, encouraging parents to communicate and discuss important safety topics both at school and at home. This program will focus on physical boundaries and safety, as well as present knowledge and skills that will foster safety in the digital age.

Protecting children from online harm is one of the primary concerns that we hear from parents today. A valuable resource to consider as enhancement to your participation in the **Goretti Project** is the *Protect App* and the **Protect Young Eyes** webpage. These resources provide (some free, some at a cost) mini lessons about digital safety. In the event your family would like to make use of the fee-based material and financially it would be a hardship, please reach out to our office as a scholarship may be available to you.

Our diocese continues to strive to assist families and parishes bridge together in educating those most important in our lives, our children.

In Christ,

Marina Hentz  
Associate Director  
Office for the Protection of Children and Youth

Jamin Herold  
Executive Director  
Offices of Mission and Ministry

Jillian Kellough  
Superintendent of Schools