



## DIocese OF Superior

### OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

August 15, 2016

Dear Pastors, Parish Directors, Parish Life Coordinators and Catechetical Leaders:

It has been nearly 14 years since the Bishops of this country approved the *Charter for the Protection of Child and Young People*. That day in Dallas punctuated the Catholic Church's struggle with the issue of sexual abuse of minors at the hands of those connected with the Church. It marked the day when the Church openly accepted responsibility for the damage that had been done – and the moment the Church fervently set forth to prevent this damage from ever happening again.

Since that November day in 2002, the Catholic Church in the United States has brought the issue of child sexual abuse out in the open. It is no longer shrouded in darkness. Society no longer whispers about this issue, but speaks loudly and clearly in its efforts to keep children safe. The *Charter* has brought the safety of children into the brightest light and many now believe one of the safest places for a child to be is in the Catholic Church.

The efforts of the Diocese of Superior to implement the *Charter* have resulted in a program that has been well-received by USCCB's Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection. Each and every audit has found the Diocese compliant with the mandates of the *Charter*. It is at this time that I add my own personal support and episcopal approval of our Diocesan Safe Environment program.

Each of you plays a very important and necessary role in educating our children, their parents, and all of our employees and volunteers about issues of faith and morality. Knowing that parents are the first and primary educators of their children, we recognize that we as Church have a commitment to partnering with parents to reinforce and enhance its official teachings. I offer my appreciation for all you have done and ask God's blessings on you as you continue this valuable work.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Rev. James P. Powers  
Bishop of Superior