



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
300 WYOMING AVENUE
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503-1279

August 31, 2022

Reverend and Dear Father,
Dear Deacon,
Dear Principal,
Dear Members of the Staff,

The Diocese of Scranton continues to be committed to full compliance with the requirements of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth*. In Article 12, the *Charter* states that dioceses are to maintain safe environment programs for adults and children. Since March 2003, the Diocese of Scranton has used *VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children* as Safe Environment Training Program for adults: all clergy, seminarians, employees, teachers, coaches, and volunteers.

The Safe Environment Children's Program is switching to *VIRTUS: Empowering God's Children*, an age-appropriate comprehensive program that educators and parents can give children and youth the tools they need regarding boundaries, safe and unsafe behaviors and healthy relationships. Further correspondence will follow from the Safe Environment Coordinator regarding details on the new lessons.

The Diocese of Scranton now offers *VIRTUS Mandated and Ethical Reporter Training* to those requiring it and they can contact the Safe Environment Coordinator for more information on how to access this training.

Thank you most sincerely for everything you do to ensure that the children and young people entrusted to our care are protected and safe.

Faithfully yours in Christ,
† Joseph C. Bambera
Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton