

# Safe Environment of the Archdiocese

## May, 2017

### Background Check Reruns

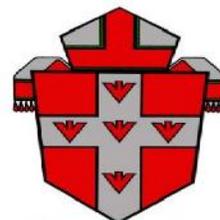
In early June your pastor will be receiving a letter regarding the background check reruns. You will receive a copy of this letter as well as instructions for moving people from active to inactive status. The procedure will be the same as in previous years.

This October background checks will be rerun on employees and volunteers who are still in your active file and have not been rerun since **June 30, 2014**.

Please watch for the letter from the data base administrator, Rose Mary Story, which will be dated in early June. The follow-up instructions will come shortly after that.

If you are in the process of preparing budgets for the fiscal year 2017-2018 be sure to include in the budget the cost to the parish of background checks.

If you have inactive people in your data base they should be removed before October as you will be charged for any reruns that take place.



*Go Make Disciples*

### Reminder

The Safe Environment Office is closed during the months of June and July. I do check my email regularly and will respond if I can. During my absence, if you need assistance please call or email:

Tish Eason—Chancellor

Rose Mary Story-database

Pat Koenig-DRE

Cheryl Clemons-RE Sect.

You can reach any of them at: 405-721-5651 and ask for the person's extension.

### Parish Compliance Survey

In a few days, every parish will receive the Parish Compliance Survey. This report covers the audit period from **July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017**. Please read the instructions before completing the report.

**Remember:** school principals send a separate report to the Superintendent of School; DRE's send a separate report to the Archdiocesan DRE. Therefore, the Parish Compliance Report includes only those OTHER employees or volunteers who are not already included in the school or religious education report. Reports are due in my office by **June 15th**.



## April 27, 2017 In-service Day

From all reports this day was a great success! This is certainly due to the many great people we have employed here at the Pastoral Center. I am so grateful to the many offices who offered help with numerous aspects of the morning. My gratitude is extended to the Office of Ministries (Tish Eason and Brooke Basler), the Education Department (Sister Diane Koorie and Cecilia Grimes), the Youth Office (Jazmin Coburn), the Hispanic Ministries Office (Angelina Gomez), the Family Life Office (Anna Romero and Lisa Carrasco), the Data Base Administrator (Rose Mary Story), the Archbishop Emeritus Office (Carol Davito) and the maintenance staff here at the Pastoral Center (Shari Conrady and Allyson Chisholm).



# Thank You!

Due to the death of Sr. Betty Kehoe's brother (she is the sister I live with) we had to leave rather suddenly for the funeral in Illinois. All of the above people stepped in to help make sure the day went well. We are indeed blessed to have such dedicated and generous employees.

The attendance at the in-service was an all-time high with 132 attending. The audience was quite diverse, representing various ministries from our parishes.

## New Booklet

Those who were present at the April 27th meeting received a new booklet which is a companion to our DVD. If you were not at the meeting, please stop at my office when you are at the Pastoral Center and I will be happy to give you one. You will find it a very helpful resource.

## Covenant Eyes DVD

Our speaker, Ryan Foley, also distributed a DVD produced by "Covenant Eyes". The DVD deals with the topic of youth and pornography. I have some available in my office. Again, I would be happy to give one to those who might stop by to request it.



Summertime can often provide an opportunity to make sure that all of your safe environment files are in order and up to date. Please remember that you must have a safe environment file for **EVERY EMPLOYEE** and **EVERY VOLUNTEER**. That file should contain paper copies of:

the application	reference forms
Interview form	signed code of conduct
certificate of training	proof of background check

**Bulletin: DON'T FORGET TO PUBLISH YOUR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT IN JULY!**



PROMISE TO  
PROTECT

PLEDGE TO  
HEAL



***“The family is the nucleus of civilization.”***

## Keeping Children Safe During On-line Gaming

Summertime will surely provide our children with more time to engage in one of their favorite activities—on-line gaming. Children and young people love to play video games and with access to online gaming more obtainable, the risks posed are potentially far wider and greater. Below is some practical advice for parents and care givers on keeping children safe during online gaming.

But before the advice, did you know that:

34% of 3-4 year olds play games on a tablet device;

38% of parents are worried about aspects of their child’s game playing;

Almost 1/3 of children play online against people they haven’t met in person?

Parents have great cause to worry and therefore, need to monitor the child’s activity on-line.

### Some Safety Tips to Enable your Child to be a **Safe Online Gamer:**

- 1) Make sure your computer has an activated security feature such as a firewall, anti-spyware software or anti-virus software. You may also want to switch your pop up blocker to “on”.
- 2) Tell your child to come to you if any messages or icons appear that make them feel uncomfortable or they are unsure where (or who) they came from.
- 3) Teach your child how to block or report cases of cyberbullying. Tell them not to engage with the bully.
- 4) Check that your child’s username does not give away any personal information—e.g. name, location, age, date of birth or any other personal information.
- 5) Encourage them not to send their personal details to fellow gamers.
- 6) Never let your child use a current picture of themselves—encourage them to use an animated avatar.
- 7) Read and understand the ratings for the games that your children are playing or involved in. Various game sites have multiple games with a variety of different ratings so check the ins and outs.
- 8) Try to have your child’s computer/console in a room that is used frequently by yourself and other family members. This will help you monitor your child’s online movements.





## **Pornography, Young People and Sexuality Today**

**Pornography is available like never before—access is easy, anonymous and free.**

For young people today, technology is part of life. With laptops, smartphones, tablets, music and gaming devices, they can be online anywhere, anytime. Technology opens up a whole range of exciting, creative possibilities for learning, connecting and creating—but it also means that pornography is more pervasive than ever before. For example, **30% of all internet traffic is porn-related.**

**Porn. It's everywhere. For many young people, it's harder to escape it than to watch it.**

With the click of a button, young people can now access a vast array of free pornographic images via the internet. Young people are being exposed to porn accidentally, as well as actively seeking it out. It's not so much a question of *if* they will see it, as *when*. Porn's influence can be seen throughout popular culture—in music, films, television, fashion and advertising. For example, **more than 90% of boys aged 13 to 16 have seen online porn—and that was before smartphones!**

**The nature of contemporary porn has changed—and it's very different from the centerfold of old.**

With the evolution of technology and the growth of the porn industry, porn producers look for an angle that will sell—and what sells is much rougher and harder than ever before. Acts of aggression—including gagging, choking and slapping—are commonplace in contemporary porn. Women's degradation and humiliation are also common themes. For example, **81% of porn scenes contain physical aggression. 91% of the aggression is directed at women.**

**The genie is out of the bottle, with pornography now the most significant sex educator for many young people.**

A 'new normal' in pornography is here, and it's providing a disturbing model of sexuality for young people today. In particular, the pornography industry is implying that porn's sex acts are normal. Is this how we want our young people to learn about the beauty of committed love?

**As parents, families, school, churches and communities, we must start talking about porn with our young people.**

We can't let young people's sexuality be shaped by the pornography industry. We can do better than that. Online porn is shaping many young people's sexual understanding and experiences—but what they are learning won't equip them for a sexuality that is respectful, mutual, consenting and safe.

We need to help young people navigate this new landscape—and equip them with the skills they will need.

Schools, churches and parents can tackle these new challenges best by working together—for our children's wellbeing.

***Parents, schools, and churches need to work together to help our young people.***

