Diocese of Green Bay

Summary of Work by the Diocese of Green Bay to End Sexual Abuse

Here is a general overview of the steps taken by the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay to prevent children and youth from being sexually abused by clergy.

1973

- Diocesan Education Department develops sexual abuse policy

Early 1980s

- Diocese develops and distributes its first sexual abuse policy.
- Workshops and in-services are held for priests to discuss appropriate boundaries and sexual abuse issues.

Early 1990s

- Diocesan sexual abuse policy is revised and distributed.

Mid-1990s

- In presentations to parish leaders, diocesan representatives emphasize the importance of background checks of all paid and volunteer staff, especially those who will work with vulnerable populations such as nursery-age children, elderly members and persons with disabilities.

1997

- The Diocese's Department of Total Catholic Education (TCE) begins conducting regular background checks on parish religious education leaders and Catholic school teachers and administrators. The names of all administrators and teachers with lifetime licenses are submitted to the state for criminal record checks. Those seeking a new license or license renewal are checked automatically by Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction.

July 2000

- "Maintaining Boundaries," the Diocesan sexual abuse policy, is broadened to include:
  - policies on sexual exploitation and harassment
  - background questionnaires and authorization forms
- TCE's background checks are extended to guests and volunteers

March 2002

- "Maintaining Boundaries" is revised and updated again.

April 2002

- Record Review Task Force is convened. Members are one non-Catholic lay person, one Catholic lay person, one former public educator, a Catholic pastor, and four diocesan representatives.
- Diocesan representatives study all files of the 980 priests who have served in the Diocese since 1859, and find 39 priests have one or more allegations of sexual abuse of a minor against them.
- Lay and diocesan members review all 39.

May 31, 2002

- At a press conference, the task force submits report to Bishop Robert J. Banks and
    - states that only a small percentage of priests had substantiated allegations, and most were from 25 to 40 years ago; nonetheless, one case of sexual abuse is too many.
    - Makes 12 recommendations on how to improve existing practices.
- At the same press conference, Bishop Robert J. Banks accepts report and calls for further reform of Diocesan sexual abuse policy, particularly in strengthening the rights of victims

June 13-15, 2002

- U.S. Bishops convene in Dallas and approve the "*Charter* for the Protection of Children and Young People," which closely mirrors Green Bay's policy.

July 2002

- Bishop Robert J. Banks accepts the resignation of two priests in light of the *Charter*.
- Diocese distributes to all parishes an announcement asking people to report to the Diocese's chancellor any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.

August 2002

- Bishop Robert J. Banks assembles the new Independent Review Board which is responsible for assessing allegations of sexual abuse of children by priests and other church personnel, and reviewing diocesan sexual abuse policies. The board is composed of five lay people (professionals in the areas of human services, health and law) and one deacon who does not work for the Diocese, and one parish priest.

November 2002

- Diocese again distributes to all parishes an announcement asking people to report to the Diocese's chancellor or vicar for priests any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.
- Diocese begins rewriting its sexual abuse prevention policy so it is more closely aligned with the national policy, "Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal."

January 2003

- Diocese circulates its 2001/2002 annual report to more than 110,000 Catholic homes in Northeastern Wisconsin. In addition to accounting for the Diocese's sources of income, the report also makes clear that all gifts to the annual fund-raising campaign, called the Bishop's Appeal, are used solely for the funding of programs and ministries.

February 2003

- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops sends "safe environment" guidelines to all U.S. Bishops (*Charter* requires all dioceses to have "safe environment"-type programs).

April 2003

- Diocese of Green Bay selects VIRTUS' "Protecting God's Children" as its safe environment program. Eighteen local facilitators are trained by VIRTUS; newly trained facilitators lead two sessions.

May/June 2003

- Another six sessions of "Protecting God's Children" are conducted, including one at Camp Tekawitha, the diocesan youth camp.
- All Diocesan employees submit to background checks
- Diocese distributes to all parishes an announcement asking people to report to the Diocese's chancellor or a recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.

July 2003

- In the July 11 issue of The Compass, an announcement about how to report sexual abuse appears on Page 3 and on the newspaper's web site.
- Bishop Robert J. Banks appoints Chancellor Sister Mary Bride Grubbs as Victim Assistance Coordinator, and Father John Doerfler as Canonical Investigator.

August 2003

- VIRTUS training continues with 18 sessions

September 2003

- VIRTUS training continues with 21 sessions

October 2003

- Auditors from The Gavin Group spend Oct. 20 to 24 in Green Bay reviewing policies and documents, and interviewing Diocesan staff and non-Diocesan people to measure the Diocese's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter* and Norms. In their findings the auditors conclude that, if by Nov. 14, the Diocese can implement the auditors' three Instructions and one Recommendation the Diocese of Green Bay will be in compliance.
- VIRTUS training continues with 8 sessions

November 2003

- Creation of Pastoral Code of Conduct and revision of "Maintaining Boundaries" are completed and distributed to parishes, schools and other institutions
- Sexual abuse prevention training program for children is selected
- Diocese meets Nov. 14 deadline and is compliant with national *Charter* and Norms
- VIRTUS training continues with 2 sessions

December 2003

- The Most Rev. David A. Zubik becomes the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay
- Bishop Zubik meets with representatives of a sexual abuse survivors group. Both agree to work together in good faith.
- VIRTUS training continues with 1 session

January 2004

- Bishop David A. Zubik announces that the Diocese is in full compliance with the "*Charter* for the Protection of Children and Young People," national framework for preventing sexual abuse of youth and vulnerable adults. The Gavin Group, an independent firm, audited each diocese.
- VIRTUS training continues with 17 sessions. At this point, approximately 6,000 clergy, paid staff and volunteers in the Diocese of Green Bay participated. In all, 81 sessions were held.
- 7,759 background checks are completed for all clergy, staff (diocesan, parish and school), and volunteers.

February 2004

- Bishop David A. Zubik releases specific information on the results of the John Jay Study in relationship to the Diocese of Green Bay. This information was shared with employees, all of the faithful and the press.
- Bishop Zubik extends his apologies to those who were hurt by Father John Feeney's actions; Feeney was found guilty on Feb. 26, 2004, of 4 of 5 charges of sexual contact with minors.
- On Feb. 18, the Diocese launches "Protecting Our Children," a new section of its web site that is a repository of information on how to report abuse, VIRTUS training sessions, diocesan policies and procedures, position statements, and Bishops' comments.
- Diocese distributes to all parishes an announcement asking people to report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator or a recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.
- VIRTUS training continues with 4 sessions

March 2004

- VIRTUS training continues with 1 session

April 2004

- Bishop David A. Zubik publicly supports new state laws that strengthen sexual abuse reporting and prosecuting laws
- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions

May 2004

- VIRTUS training continues with 3 sessions June 2004
- Bishop David A. Zubik publicly states his support for next national audit.
- VIRTUS training continues with 4 sessions

July 2004

- Diocese implements new online employment application with background check tool. Employees and volunteers who completed the background check through MYB the previous year are asked to complete the new eApps program to ensure the Diocese is in compliance with national C*harter* and norms.
- VIRTUS training continues with 2 sessions

August 2004

- VIRTUS training continues with 14 sessions

September 2004

- Diocese distributes to all parishes an announcement asking people to report to the Diocese's Interim Victim Assistance Coordinator or a recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.
- VIRTUS training continues with 25 sessions

October 2004

- VIRTUS training continues with 28 sessions
- Auditors from The Gavin Group spend Oct. 11 to 15 in Green Bay reviewing policies and documents, and interviewing Diocesan staff and non-Diocesan people to measure the Diocese's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter* and Norms. In their findings the auditors conclude that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance.

November 2004

- VIRTUS training continues with 15 sessions

December 2004

- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions

January 2005

- Diocese distributes to all parishes an announcement asking people to report to the Diocese's Interim Victim Assistance Coordinator or a recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.
- VIRTUS training continues with 14 sessions
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.

February 2005

- Bishop David A. Zubik announces that the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance with the U.S. Bishops' national standards for preventing clergy sexual abuse of children. The announcement is based on a report received from The Gavin Group Inc., an independent, non-church organization which conducted the audits in archdioceses and dioceses throughout the country.
- VIRTUS training continues with 8 sessions

March 2005

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions

April 2005

- VIRTUS training continues with 15 sessions
- VIRTUS training conducted in Spanish at two parishes
- Additional online training is offered for Local Safe Environment Coordinators

May 2005

- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator or the recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcement also highlights the new, nationwide toll-free number for people to call to make a report. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.
- VIRTUS training continues with 12 sessions
- Additional online training is offered for Local Safe Environment Coordinators

June 2005

- VIRTUS training continues with 4 sessions

July 2005

- Ann Fox is named the new Diocesan Assistance Coordinator. Announcement appears in The Compass newspaper and is sent to parishes, schools, religious education coordinators and the secular media.
- Over 11,500 people in the Diocese of Green Bay have completed a VIRTUS ® Protecting God's Children Awareness Session and over 9,000 people have completed a criminal background check.

- VIRTUS training continues with 1 session
- Diocese circulates the newly revised Diocesan Code of Pastoral Conduct for Volunteers to all parishes and schools
- First Safe Environment Newsletter is sent to all parishes.
- John Perring-Mulligan, PhD, is appointed by Bishop Zubik to the diocesan Independent Review Board
- VIRTUS training continues with 1 session

August 2005

- USCCB poster and Safe Environment brochure distributed to all parishes to publicize how to report sexual abuse
- Officer John Flannery is appointed by Bishop Zubik to the diocesan Independent Review Board
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator or the recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcement also highlights the name of the new assistance coordinator. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.
- VIRTUS training continues with 12 sessions

September 2005

- VIRTUS training continues with 22 sessions

October 2005

- VIRTUS training continues with 19 sessions

November 2005

- Auditors from The Gavin Group spend Nov. 7 to 10 in Green Bay reviewing policies and documents, and interviewing Diocesan staff and non-Diocesan people to measure the Diocese's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter* and Norms. In their findings the auditors conclude that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance.
- Revision of the policies on appropriate conduct, "Our Promise to Protect …" is completed and distributed to parishes, schools and other institutions
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator or the recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.
- VIRTUS training continues with 8 sessions

December 2005

- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes
- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions

January 2006

- Meeting at the Diocese of Green Bay for all VIRTUS facilitators
- VIRTUS training continues with 10 sessions
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister to either the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator, the recommended, independent therapist or local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.

February 2006

- VIRTUS training continues with 12 sessions

March 2006

- Bishop David A. Zubik announces that the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance with the U.S. Bishops' national standards for preventing clergy sexual abuse of children. The announcement is based on a report received from The Gavin Group Inc., an independent, non-church organization which conducted the audits in archdioceses and dioceses throughout the country.
- Participation in the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Evaluation Survey of the 2005 Compliance Audit Process.
- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes
- VIRTUS training continues with 11 sessions
- 13,472 people in the Diocese of Green Bay have completed a VIRTUS ® Protecting God's Children Awareness Session and 15,204 people in the Diocese of Green Bay have completed a criminal background check.

April 2006

- VIRTUS training continues with 3 sessions
- Mandated Reporters of Abuse Reference Guide distributed to all parishes with in the Diocese of Green Bay
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator or the recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.

May 2006

- VIRTUS training continues with 7 sessions

June 2006

- VIRTUS training continues with 8 sessions

July 2006

- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes

- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator or the recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.
- VIRTUS training continues with 7 sessions

August 2006
- VIRTUS training continues with 8 sessions
- 15 new VIRTUS Facilitators trained and commissioned for the parishes and Diocese of Green Bay

September 2006
- VIRTUS training continues with 27 sessions

October 2006
- Bishop Zubik leads a Prayer Service of Apology. Recognizing that the Church in its humanness may have caused hurt or pain, all people who felt hurt by the Church in any way were invited to come to the prayer service at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay. About 200 people attended.
- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes
- VIRTUS training continues with 22 sessions
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator or the recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.

November 2006
- Auditors from The Gavin Group spend Nov. 6 to 10 in Green Bay reviewing policies and documents, and interviewing Diocesan staff and non-Diocesan people to measure the Diocese's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter* and Norms. In their findings the auditors conclude that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance.
- Parent Guide to Internet Safety distributed to all parishes and schools
- VIRTUS training continues with 14 sessions

December 2006
- Bishop Zubik meets with Major Religious Superiors of Men highlighting the importance of collaboration between diocesan bishops and the provincials of the participating religious orders present in their diocese regarding polices relating to the protection of children and young people.
- VIRTUS training continues with 4 sessions

January 2007
- Bishop David A. Zubik announces that the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance with the U.S. Bishops' national standards for preventing clergy sexual abuse of children. The announcement is based on a report received from The Gavin Group Inc.,

an independent, non-church organization which conducted the audits in archdioceses and dioceses throughout the country.

- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator or the recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.
- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes
- VIRTUS training continues with 17 sessions
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.

February 2007

- Continued training for Local Safe Environment Coordinators and VIRTUS Facilitators offered in Green Bay.
- Local Safe Environment Coordinator Technical Manual created and distributed.
- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions

March 2007

- VIRTUS training continues with 11 sessions
- Continued training for Local Safe Environment Coordinators and VIRTUS Facilitators offered in Clintonville.
- Continued training for Local Safe Environment Coordinators and VIRTUS Facilitators offered in Oshkosh.
- Continued training for Local Safe Environment Coordinators and VIRTUS Facilitators offered in Two Rivers.

April 2007

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions
- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator or the recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.

May 2007

- VIRTUS training continues with 8 sessions

June 2007

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions
- Additional Internet Safety materials and Creating Safer Communities Bulletin circulated to VIRTUS Facilitators to distribute at VIRTUS Protecting Our Children Adult Awareness Sessions.

July 2007

- New VIRTUS Attendance policy effective July 1, 2007
- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes
- VIRTUS training continues with 2 sessions

August 2007

- VIRTUS training continues with 11 sessions
- 17 new VIRTUS Facilitators trained and commissioned for the parishes and Diocese of Green Bay
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator or the recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.

September 2007

- VIRTUS training continues with 21 sessions
- Attorney Howard Healy, Attorney and Deacon Paul Umentum, Sr. Laura Wolf, OSF, Ms. Linda Doro, LCSW and Ms. Kathleen Lyons, RN, MSN, APNP are re-appointed by Bishop Zubik to the diocesan Independent Review Board

October 2007

- VIRTUS training continues with 25 sessions
- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes

November 2007

- Auditor from The Gavin Group spend Nov. 5 to 9 in Green Bay reviewing policies and documents, and interviewing Diocesan staff and non-Diocesan people to measure the Diocese's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter* and Norms. In his findings the auditor concludes that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance.
- VIRTUS training continues with 14 sessions

December 2007

- VIRTUS training continues with 4 sessions

January 2008

- VIRTUS training continues with 12 sessions
- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator or the recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.
- Editorial published in the Compass newspaper "Remembering Survivors of Clergy Sexual Abuse" (1/11/08) and article regarding C*harter* compliance (1/4/08).

- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.

February 2008

- USCCB announces that the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance with the U.S. Bishops' national standards for preventing clergy sexual abuse of children. The announcement is based on a report received from The Gavin Group Inc., an independent, non-church organization which conducted the audits in archdioceses and dioceses throughout the country.
- VIRTUS training continues with 11 sessions

March 2008

- USCCB Child Abuse Prevention Month Liturgy Guide and diocesan prevention flyer distributed to all parishes.
- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator or the recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.

April 2008

- Training for Local Safe Environment Coordinators regarding process to recheck backgrounds on all employees and volunteers offered in Green Bay.
- Training for Local Safe Environment Coordinators regarding process to recheck backgrounds on all employees and volunteers offered in Two Rivers.
- Training for Local Safe Environment Coordinators regarding process to recheck backgrounds on all employees and volunteers offered in Oshkosh
- Training for Local Safe Environment Coordinators regarding process to recheck backgrounds on all employees and volunteers offered in Shawano.
- Editorial published in the Compass newspaper "Darkness to Light: Child Abuse Prevention Month" (4/4/08)
- VIRTUS training continues with 5 sessions

May 2008

- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes
- VIRTUS training continues with 12 sessions

June 2008

- VIRTUS training continues with 8 sessions
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator or the recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.

July 2008

- VIRTUS training session conducted at Holy Name Retreat House on Chambers Island in Door County.
- VIRTUS training session conducted in Spanish at St Therese Parish in Appleton.
- Pilot Parish Assessment program begins. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 1 Parish visit.

August 2008

- The Most Rev. David L. Ricken becomes the 12th Bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay
- VIRTUS training continues with 14 sessions
- 17 new VIRTUS Facilitators trained and commissioned for the parishes and Diocese of Green Bay
- Pilot Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 4 Parish visits.

September 2008

- VIRTUS training continues with 29 sessions
- Reverend James Hablewitz is re-appointed by Bishop Ricken to the diocesan Independent Review Board
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator or the recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.
- Pilot Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 1 Parish visits.

October 2008

- VIRTUS training continues with 21 sessions
- Auditors from The Gavin Group spend Oct. 27 to 30 in Green Bay reviewing policies and documents, and interviewing Diocesan staff and non-Diocesan people to measure the Diocese's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter* and Norms. In their findings the auditors conclude that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance.

November 2008

- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions
- VIRTUS training session conducted in Spanish at St Therese Parish in Appleton.
- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes

December 2008

- VIRTUS training continues with 8 sessions
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator or the recommended, independent therapist any

current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.

January 2009

- VIRTUS training continues with 10 sessions
- VIRTUS training session conducted in Spanish at St Willebrord Parish in Green Bay.
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.

February 2009

- VIRTUS training continues with 12 sessions
- VIRTUS training session conducted in Spanish at St Philip the Apostle Parish in Green Bay.
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator or the recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.

March 2009

- VIRTUS training continues with 10 sessions
- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator or the recommended, independent therapist any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister. The announcements are for parish weekly bulletins.

April 2009

- VIRTUS training continues with 10 sessions
- VIRTUS training session conducted in Spanish at St Philip the Apostle Parish in Green Bay.
- VIRTUS training session conducted in Spanish at St Therese Parish in Appleton.
- Liturgy Resource Guide for Child Abuse Prevention Month sent to all parishes
- Editorial published in the Compass newspaper "Preventing Abuse Is Church's Duty" (4/1/09)

May 2009

- VIRTUS training continues with 8 sessions
- Parish Assessment program begins. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 7 Parish visits.

June 2009

- VIRTUS training continues with 5 sessions

- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister to either the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator, the recommended, independent therapist or local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 15 Parish visits

July 2009

- VIRTUS training continues with 7 sessions.
- VIRTUS training session conducted at Holy Name Retreat House on Chambers Island in Door County
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 5 Parish visits

August 2009

- VIRTUS training continues with 14 sessions.
- 13 new VIRTUS Facilitators trained and commissioned for the parishes and Diocese of Green Bay
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 1 Parish visit

September 2009

- VIRTUS training continues with 26 sessions.
- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes
- Auditors from The Gavin Group collect data from the Diocese of Green Bay reviewing policies and documents, and interviewing Diocesan staff and non-Diocesan people to measure the Diocese's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter* and Norms. In their findings the auditors conclude that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance.
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister to either the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator, the recommended, independent therapist or local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 2 Parish visits

October 2009

- VIRTUS training continues with 21 sessions.
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 3 Parish visits

November 2009

- VIRTUS training continues with 15 sessions.
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 10 Parish visits

December 2009

- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions.
- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister to either the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator, the recommended, independent therapist or local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 10 Parish visits

January 2010

- VIRTUS training continues with 12 sessions.
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.

February 2010

- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions.
- VIRTUS training session conducted in Spanish at St Philip the Apostle Parish in Green Bay.
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 16 Parish visits

March 2010

- VIRTUS training continues with 11 sessions.
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister to either the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator, the recommended, independent therapist or local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 21 Parish visits

April 2010

- VIRTUS training continues with 11 sessions.
- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes

- Liturgy Resource Guide for Child Abuse Prevention Month sent to all parishes
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 10 Parish visits

May 2010

- VIRTUS training continues with 5 sessions.
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 8 Parish visits
- First of a 4 part series of articles published in the Compass newspaper "Department Upholds Church's Promise to Protect" (5/26/10)
- Editorial published in the Compass newspaper "A Church Response to Sexual Abuse" (5/26/10)

June 2010

- VIRTUS training continues with 11 sessions.
- VIRTUS training session conducted at Holy Name Retreat House on Chambers Island in Door County
- Sexual Offender Policy was developed for the diocese stating the guidelines for registered sexual offenders of minors attending parish/school events and activities.
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator, the recommended, independent therapist or local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 7 Parish visits
- Second of a 4 part series of articles published in the Compass newspaper "Safe Environment Training Can Be an Eye-Opener" (6/9/10)
- Third of a 4 part series of articles published in the Compass newspaper "Youth Football Program Plays It Safe" (6/23/10)

July 2010

- VIRTUS training continues with 3 sessions.
- VIRTUS training session conducted in Spanish at St Therese Parish in Appleton.
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 12 Parish visits
- Fourth of a 4 part series of articles published in the Compass newspaper "Clergy Help Diocese Provide Safe Environment" (7/7/10)

August 2010

- VIRTUS training continues with 19 sessions.

- 14 new VIRTUS Facilitators trained and commissioned for the parishes and Diocese of Green Bay

September 2010
- VIRTUS training continues with 31 sessions.
- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes
- Auditors from The Gavin Group collect data from the Diocese of Green Bay reviewing policies and documents, and interviewing Diocesan staff and non-Diocesan people to measure the Diocese's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter* and Norms. In their findings the auditors conclude that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance.
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister to either the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator, the recommended, independent therapist or local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 6 Parish visits

October 2010
- VIRTUS training continues with 18 sessions.
- VIRTUS training session conducted in Spanish at St Willebrord Parish in Green Bay.
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 7 Parish visits

November 2010
- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions.
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 4 Parish visits
- 13 new VIRTUS Facilitators trained and commissioned for the parishes and Diocese of Green Bay
- Article published in the Compass newspaper "Priest Removed from Parish Following Abuse Allegation" containing summary of diocesan appropriate conduct policy (11/21/10)
- Local Safe Environment Coordinator and VIRTUS Facilitator training days

December 2010
- VIRTUS training continues with 7 sessions.
- Local Safe Environment Coordinator and VIRTUS Facilitator training days
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister to either the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator, the recommended, independent therapist or local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

January 2011

- VIRTUS training continues with 15 sessions.
- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes
- Officer John Flannery is re-appointed by Bishop Ricken to the diocesan Independent Review Board
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.

February 2011

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions.
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 2 Parish visits

March 2011

- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions.
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister to either the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator, the recommended, independent therapist or local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- Parish Assessment program continues. Individual parish review regarding compliance of implementation and adherence to diocesan safe environment policy and procedure. 1 Parish visit

April 2011

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions.
- Safe Environment Newsletter sent to all parishes
- Liturgy Resource Guide for Child Abuse Prevention Month sent to all parishes
- Article published in the Compass newspaper "Abuse Audits: Good and Bad" (4/13/11)

May 2011

- VIRTUS training continues with 8 sessions.

June 2011

- VIRTUS training continues with 11 sessions.
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister to either the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator, the recommended, independent therapist or local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

July 2011

- VIRTUS training continues with 1 session.

August 2011

- VIRTUS training continues with 11 sessions.
- 10 new VIRTUS Facilitators trained and commissioned for the parishes and Diocese of Green Bay

September 2011

- VIRTUS training continues with 24 sessions.
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister to either the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator, the recommended, independent therapist or local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

October 2011

- VIRTUS training continues with 18 sessions.
- Auditors from Stone Bridge Partners spend Oct. 11 -13 in Green Bay reviewing policies and documents, and interviewing Diocesan staff and non-Diocesan people to measure the Diocese's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter* and Norms.

November 2011

- VIRTUS training continues with 12 sessions.

December 2011

- VIRTUS training continues with 10 sessions.
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister to either the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator, the recommended, independent therapist or local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- Data collected by Stone Bridge Partners concludes that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter* and Norms.

January 2012

- VIRTUS training continues with 7 sessions.
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.
- Sr. Laura Wolf, OSF, Ms. Katie Lyons, Attorney Howard Healy, Deacon Paul Umentum, and Ms. Linda Doro are re-appointed by Bishop Ricken to the diocesan Independent Review Board.
- Editorial published in the Compass newspaper "Safe environment remains priority" (1/11/12)

February 2012

- VIRTUS training continues with 15 sessions.

March 2012

- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions.
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister to either the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator, the recommended, independent therapist or local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

April 2012

- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions.
- Four new flyers are created to be included in parish bulletins for Child Abuse Awareness Month
- Revised LoSEC Technical Manual
- Participation in the USCCB Audit Workshop Webinar for the implementation of the *Charter* and the Audit process.

May 2012

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions.
- Revised LoSEC Manual

June 2012

- VIRTUS training continues with 8 sessions.
- After seven years, Ann Fox retires. Jayne Stefanic is selected as the new Diocesan Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Green Bay.
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister to either the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator, the recommended, independent therapist or local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

July 2012

- VIRTUS training continues with 3 sessions.

August 2012

- VIRTUS training continues with 13 sessions
- 15 new VIRTUS Facilitators trained and commissioned for the parishes and Diocese of Green Bay
- Auditors from Stone Bridge Partners collect documents and statistical data to measure the Diocese's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter* and Norms.

September 2012

- VIRTUS training continues with 23 sessions
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister to either the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator, the recommended, independent therapist or local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

- Editorial published in the Compass newspaper "Stefanic helps diocese create safe environment for children, adults." (9/12/2012)

October 2012

- VIRTUS training continues with 22 sessions
- Data collected by Stone Bridge Partners concludes that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter* and Norms.

November 2012

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions

December 2012

- VIRTUS training continues with 2 sessions
- Diocese distributes its quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to report any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister to the Diocese's Assistance Coordinator, the recommended, independent therapist or local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

January 2013

- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.

February 2013

- VIRTUS training continues with 5 sessions
- Diocese distributes a REVISED quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister are reported to the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- Revised "Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal" brochure.
- Bishop Ricken mails a 10 year update brochure "Preserving the Promise to Protect and the Pledge to Heal" on the diocese's implementation of the *Charter* to all Catholic households throughout the diocese.

March 2013

- VIRTUS training continues with 3 sessions

April 2013

- VIRTUS training continues with 13 sessions

- Flyers and other resources are distributed to be included in parish bulletins for Child Abuse Awareness Month
- Participation in the USCCB Audit Workshop Webinar for the implementation of the *Charter* and the Audit process.

May 2013

- VIRTUS training continues with 10 sessions

June 2013

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister are reported to the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- HOPE Prayer Service was developed and implemented by survivors of sexual abuse and friends of survivors to pray for the healing wounds caused by sexual abuse.

July 2013

- VIRTUS training continues with 4 sessions
- Jayne Stefanic attended the National Victim Assistance Safe Environment Coordinators Conference in San Francisco, CA.
- HOPE Prayer Service was conducted by survivors of sexual abuse and friends of survivors to pray for the healing of wounds caused by sexual abuse.

August 2013

- VIRTUS training continues with 13 sessions
- 5 new VIRTUS Facilitators trained and commissioned for the parishes and Diocese of Green Bay
- HOPE Prayer Service was conducted by survivors of sexual abuse and friends of survivors to pray for the healing of wounds caused by sexual abuse.
- Auditors from Stone Bridge Business Partners in Rochester, New York collect documents and statistical data to measure the Diocese of Green Bay's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and Essential Norms.*

September 2013

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the

diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister are reported to the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- HOPE Prayer Service was conducted by survivors of sexual abuse and friends of survivors to pray for the healing of wounds caused by sexual abuse.

October 2013
- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions
- HOPE Prayer Service was conducted by survivors of sexual abuse and friends of survivors to pray for the healing of wounds caused by sexual abuse.
- Bishop Ricken received a letter from the auditors reporting that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance with the national standards for the 2012/2013 Charter Audit Period.

November 2013
- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions
- HOPE Prayer Service was conducted by survivors of sexual abuse and friends of survivors to pray for the healing of wounds caused by sexual abuse.

December 2013
- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister are reported to the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- HOPE Prayer Service was conducted by survivors of sexual abuse and friends of survivors to pray for the healing of wounds caused by sexual abuse.

January 2014
- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions
- HOPE Prayer Service was conducted by survivors of sexual abuse and friends of survivors to pray for the healing of wounds caused by sexual abuse.
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.

February 2014
- VIRTUS training continues with 5 sessions

March 2014

- VIRTUS training continues with 8 sessions
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, any current or past incidents of child sexual abuse by an ordained minister are reported to the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- Reverend James A. Hablewitz is re-appointed by Bishop Ricken to the diocesan Independent Review Board.

April 2014

- VIRTUS training continues with 10 sessions
- Flyers and other resources are distributed to be included in parish bulletins for Child Abuse Awareness Month
- Child Abuse Prevention Mass held on the diocesan campus to join in solidarity and prayer to end all forms of child abuse. In 2014/2015 all participants received a blue ribbon for Child abuse Prevention Month to wear for the month of April.
- The first ever Prayer Service for Healing with Bishop David Ricken was held. This was a Prayer Service for victims/survivors of sexual abuse; family and friends of those abused; and all those in need of healing from the church; and to pray for healing in our church. The first Prayer Service for Healing was held on Tuesday April 8, 2014 at St Joseph/Holy Family Parish in Phlox, WI. The second Prayer Service for Healing was held on Thursday April 10, 2014 at St. Thomas More Parish in Appleton, WI.
- Participation in the USCCB Audit Workshop Webinar for the implementation of the *Charter* and the Audit process.

May 2014

- VIRTUS training continues with 5 sessions
- Jayne Stefanic attended the National Victim Assistance Safe Environment Coordinators Conference in Nashville,TN.

June 2014

- VIRTUS training continues with 7 sessions
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

July 2014

- VIRTUS training continues with 4 sessions

August 2014

- VIRTUS training continues with 13 sessions
- 9 new VIRTUS Facilitators trained and commissioned for the parishes and Diocese of Green Bay
- After 10 years, Karen Bass retires. Debbie Knaus is selected as the new Safe Environment Assistant for the Diocese of Green Bay.

September 2014

- VIRTUS training continues with 26 sessions
- Auditors from Stone Bridge Partners were onsite at the diocesan Chancery Office September 22–24, reviewing documents and statistical data evaluating the Diocese's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charte*r and Norms established by the USCCB.
- Bishop Ricken received a letter from the auditors reporting that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance with the national standards for the 2013/2014 Charter Audit Period.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

October 2014

- VIRTUS training continues with 21 sessions
- Journey of Hope Prayer Service was developed and implemented by survivors of sexual abuse and friends of survivors to gather together as a community in prayer concerning the issue of sexual abuse.

November 2014

- VIRTUS training continues with 8 sessions
- Safe Environment Action Plan and Agreement for Registered Sexual Offenders was developed for the diocese.

December 2014

- VIRTUS training continues with 7 sessions
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- First ever LoSEC (Local Safe Environment Coordinator) training webinar held. This training webinar content included working within the eApps and VIRTUS databases, LoSEC responsibilities and the annual Safe Environment Survey.

January 2015

- VIRTUS training continues with 7 sessions
- Journey of Hope Prayer Service was conducted by survivors of sexual abuse and friends of survivors to gather together as a community in prayer concerning the issue of sexual abuse.

February 2015

- VIRTUS training continues with 5 sessions

March 2015

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletin.

April 2015

- VIRTUS training continues with 2 sessions
- Flyers and other resources are distributed to be included in parish bulletins for Child Abuse Awareness Month.
- Child Abuse Prevention Mass held on the diocesan campus to join in solidarity and prayer to end all forms of child abuse. In 2014/2015 all participants received a blue ribbon for Child abuse Prevention Month to wear for the month of April.
- Two Prayer Services for Healing with Bishop David Ricken were held. The first Prayer Service for Healing was held on Tuesday April 14, 2015 at St Matthew Parish in Green Bay, WI. The second Prayer Service for Healing was held on Friday April 17, 2015 at Sacred Heart Parish in Shawano, WI.
- Journey of Hope Prayer Service was conducted by survivors of sexual abuse and friends of survivors to gather together as a community in prayer concerning the issue of sexual abuse.
- Participation in the USCCB Audit Workshop Webinar for the implementation of the *Charter* and the Audit process.
- VIRTUS released the updated version of the DVD and materials used in the VIRTUS training sessions. VIRTUS Facilitators were retrained on the updated DVD and material.
- Editorial published in the Compass newspaper “Healing from clergy sexual abuse begins for Van Asten” (4/23/15)

May 2015

- VIRTUS training continues with 7 sessions

June 2015

- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions
- Jayne Stefanic attended the National Victim Assistance Safe Environment Coordinators Conference in Cincinnati, OH.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

July 2015

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions
- Journey of Hope Prayer Service was conducted by survivors of sexual abuse and friends of survivors to gather together as a community in prayer concerning the issue of sexual abuse.

August 2015

- VIRTUS training continues with 11 sessions
- Jayne Stefanic and Deb Knaus attended the VIRTUS Conference held in Chicago, Il. Along with various speakers covering topics ranging from best practices to current events, VIRTUS presented upcoming changes being made to the website.
- 6 new VIRTUS Facilitators trained and commissioned for the parishes and Diocese of Green Bay
- Auditors from Stone Bridge Business Partners in Rochester, New York collect documents and statistical data to measure the Diocese of Green Bay's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and Essential Norms.*
- After 13 years of service, Ms. Linda Doro retires from the diocesan Independent Review Board.

September 2015

- VIRTUS training continues with 27 sessions
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

October 2015

- VIRTUS training continues with 18 sessions
- "Preserving the Promise to Protect and Pledge to Heal" brochure, a 10 year update regarding child protection efforts in the Diocese of Green Bay first distributed to all

registered Catholic households in 2013, is updated reaffirming the ongoing work and efforts within the Diocese of Green Bay to protect our children and vulnerable adults.

- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church. (Date was changed and is now due in October)
- "Preserving the Promise to Protect and Pledge to Heal" brochure on the diocese's implementation of the *Charter* is updated.
- LoSEC (Local Safe Environment Coordinator) training webinar held. This training webinar content included working within the eApps and VIRTUS databases, LoSEC job description, and the annual Safe Environment Survey.

November 2015

- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions
- Journey of Hope Prayer Service was conducted by survivors of sexual abuse and friends of survivors to gather together as a community in prayer concerning the issue of sexual abuse.

December 2015

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- Bishop Ricken received a letter from the auditors reporting that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance with the national standards for the 2014/2015 Charter Audit Period.

January 2016

- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions
- Mr. John Flannery is re-appointed by Bishop Ricken to the diocesan Independent Review Board.

February 2016

- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions
- Mrs. Bonnie Phernetton, social worker, is appointed by Bishop Ricken to the diocesan Independent Review Board.

March 2016

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions

- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

April 2016

- VIRTUS training continues with 5 sessions
- Flyers and other resources are distributed to be included in parish bulletins for Child Abuse Awareness Month.
- Child Abuse Prevention Mass held on the diocesan campus to join in solidarity and prayer to end all forms of child abuse. In 2016 all participants received a Child Abuse Prevention Awareness bracelet to wear for the month of April.
- Two Prayer Services for Healing with Bishop David Ricken were held. The first Prayer Service for Healing was held on Tuesday April 12, 2016 at St Peter the Fisherman Parish in Two Rivers, WI. The second Prayer Service for Healing was held on Wednesday April 13, 2016 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in De Pere, WI
- Participation in the USCCB Audit Workshop Webinar for the implementation of the *Charter* and the Audit process.

May 2016

- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions
- Jayne Stefanic attended the National Victim Assistance Safe Environment Coordinators Conference in Denver, CO.

June 2016

- VIRTUS training continues with 14 sessions
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

July 2016

- VIRTUS training continues with 4 sessions

August 2016

- VIRTUS training continues with 19 sessions
- 14 new VIRTUS Facilitators trained and commissioned for the parishes and Diocese of Green Bay
- Auditors from Stone Bridge Business Partners in Rochester, New York collect documents and statistical data to measure the Diocese of Green Bay's compliance

with the 17 articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and Essential Norms.*

September 2016

- VIRTUS training continues with 21 sessions
- Article published in the Compass newspaper "Retired priest found guilty of 2 counts of sexual misconduct" (9/7/16)

October 2016

- VIRTUS training continues with 13 sessions
- Participation in the USCCB Audit Workshop Webinar
- Hope Prayer Service Held at St Thomas More Parish, Appleton, WI.
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.

November 2016

- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions
- Article published in the Compass newspaper "Retired priest receives jail sentence" (11/4/2016)
- Two LoSEC (Local Safe Environment Coordinator) training sessions were offered at the diocese November 21 and November 22 for new LoSEC's and any LoSEC that was interested in a refresher. On Monday November 21st we welcomed 9 people to the training. On Tuesday November 22 we welcomed 13 people to the training.

December 2016

- VIRTUS training continues with 5 sessions
- Deacon Dan Wagnitz is hired to replace Jayne Stefanic as the Safe Environment Coordinator. Jayne Stefanic will be leaving the Diocese of Green Bay in early January.

January 2017

- VIRTUS training continues with 8 sessions
- Mr. John Flannery is hired as the Victim Assistance Coordinator. A newly created part time role replacing the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator responsibility that had been previously part of Jayne Stefanic's role.

February 2017

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions
- Invitation from Bishop Ricken published in the Compass newspaper regarding the "Prayer Service for Healing" being held Monday April 24, 2017 at St James Church in White Lake, WI. and Tuesday April 25, 2017 at St Therese Church in Appleton, WI. (2/24/17)

- Invitation from the Journey of Hope group published in the Compass newspaper regarding a "Day of Healing" retreat being held Saturday April 8, 2017 at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality in De Pere, WI. (2/24/17)
- Deacon Dan Wagnitz, Safe Environment Coordinator, attended the Child and Youth Protection Conference held in Savannah, GA. February 27 to March 1, 2017.

March 2017

- VIRTUS training continues with 12 sessions
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletin.

April 2017

- VIRTUS training continues with 7 sessions
- Flyers and other resources are distributed to be included in parish bulletins for Child Abuse Awareness Month.
- Child Abuse Prevention Mass held on the diocesan campus to pray to end all forms of child abuse. All participants received "A Prayer for Healing" prayer card in both English and Spanish, created by the USCCB, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- Two Prayer Services for Healing with Bishop David Ricken were held. The first Prayer Service for Healing was held on Monday April 24, 2017 at St James Parish in Whitelake, WI. The second Prayer Service for Healing was held on Tuesday April 25, 2017 at St Therese Parish, Appleton, WI.
- "A Day of Healing" retreat was held Saturday April 8, 2017 at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality. A day of reflection for survivors of sexual abuse, friends of survivors and other caring persons.
- Participation in the 4 hour USCCB Audit Workshop Webinar for the implementation of the *Charter* and the Audit process.
- Participation in the CARA survey webinar. The CARA survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.
- Article published in the Compass newspaper introducing the new Safe Environment leaders, Deacon Dan Wagnitz and John Flannery, assisted by Deb Knaus. (4/28/2017)

May 2017

- VIRTUS training continues with 10 sessions

June 2017

- VIRTUS training continues with 10 sessions

- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- After 45 years, Diocesan General Counsel, Phil Brehm, is retiring. Timothy Feldhausen will replace Phil Brehm as the Diocesan General Counsel.

July 2017

- VIRTUS training continues with 5 sessions

August 2017

- VIRTUS training continues with 12 sessions
- 7 new VIRTUS Facilitators trained and commissioned for the parishes and Diocese of Green Bay
- Auditors from Stone Bridge Business Partners in Rochester, New York collect documents and statistical data to measure the Diocese of Green Bay's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and Essential Norms.*

September 2017

- VIRTUS training continues with 25 sessions
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- Article published in the Compass newspaper September 8, 2017, announcing the creation of the Safe Environment Social Media Policy. The new Safe Environment Social Media Policy offers parishes and ministers guidelines for online sharing.

October 2017

- VIRTUS training continues with 13 sessions
- Participation in the USCCB Audit Workshop Webinar
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.
- Journey of Hope Prayer Service held at St Thomas More Parish in Appleton, WI. On October 5, 2017.

November 2017

- VIRTUS training continues with 7 sessions

December 2017

- VIRTUS training continues with 2 sessions
- Auditors from Stone Bridge Partners were onsite at the diocesan Chancery Office December 4-7, reviewing documents and statistical data evaluating the Diocese's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charte*r and Norms established by the USCCB.
- Bishop Ricken received a letter from the auditors reporting that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance with the national standards for the 2016/2017 Charter Audit Period.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

January 2018

- VIRTUS training continues with 10 sessions

February 2018

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions
- Invitation from the Journey of Hope group published in the Compass newspaper regarding a "Day of Healing" retreat being held Saturday April 7, 2018 at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality in De Pere, WI. (2/09/18)

March 2018

- VIRTUS training continues with 7 sessions
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletin.
- Invitation for the Prayer Service for Healing with Bishop David Ricken published in the Compass newspaper offering two prayer services that will be held on Wednesday April 18, 2018 at 6:30pm at St Mary Church in Winneconne and Tuesday April 24, 2018 at 6:30pm at St Bernard Church in Green Bay. (3/30/18)

April 2018

- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions
- Child Abuse Prevention Mass held on the diocesan campus April 24, 2018 to pray to end all forms of child abuse.
- Two Prayer Services for Healing with Bishop David Ricken were held. The first Prayer Service for Healing was held on Wednesday April 18, 2018 at St Mary Parish in

Winneconne, WI. The second Prayer Service for Healing was held on Tuesday April 24, 2018 at St Bernard Parish, Green Bay, WI.

- "A Day of Healing: Journey of Hope" retreat was held Saturday April 7, 2018 at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality. A day of reflection for survivors of sexual abuse, friends of survivors and other caring persons.

May 2018

- VIRTUS training continues with 10 sessions

June 2018

- VIRTUS training continues with 11 sessions
- Deacon Dan Wagnitz, Safe Environment Coordinator, attended the Child and Youth Protection Conference held in New Orleans, LA. June 4 to June 6, 2018.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

July 2018

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions

August 2018

- VIRTUS training continues with 13 sessions
- 9 new VIRTUS Facilitators trained and commissioned for the parishes and Diocese of Green Bay
- Auditors from Stone Bridge Business Partners in Rochester, New York collect documents and statistical data to measure the Diocese of Green Bay's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and Essential Norms.*
- Bishop's Corner written by Bishop David Ricken, in The Compass August 10, 2018 was titled "Sexual abuse in the church". Sam Lucero, contributing editor for The Compass authored the editorial, "Déjà vu all over again".
- The Compass carried the story on August 24, 2018 "Bishop Ricken releases letter on sexual abuse reports". Patricia Kasten, contributing editor for The Compass authored the editorial, "In the desert, the clergy sexual abuse crisis".

September 2018

- VIRTUS training continues with 29 sessions
- "Promise To Protect Special Insert On Response To Clergy Sexual Abuse" is included in The Compass published September 7, 2018. Bishop David Ricken outlined his "Action Steps to Accountability". An article that originally appeared in The Compass in 2017, "Healing Services Continue in Diocese" was rerun. "How the diocese accepts candidates for seminary" was authored by Father Mark Mleziva, Vocations Director.

Howard Healy, chairman of the Independent Review Board, authored an article, "Independent Review Board helps protect God's children". Deacon Dan Wagnitz, Safe Environment Coordinator, authored an article; "Safe Environment Office takes steps to protect". John Flannery, Victim Assistance Coordinator, authored an article, "Role of Victim Assistance Coordinator: Accompanying survivors of abuse". Sam Lucero, contributing editor for The Compass authored the editorial, "Transparency sorely needed".

- "Bishop Ricken announces listening sessions" article was published in The Compass in the issue dated September 14, 2018. Sam Lucero, contributing editor for The Compass authored the editorial, "Laity's role in accountability, Putting an end to clericalism".
- "Bishop Morneau requests withdrawal from public ministry" article was published in The Compass dated September 21, 2018. Sam Lucero, contributing editor for The Compass authored the editorial, "Suffering and healing, Building up the body of Christ".
- "Bishop Ricken meets with news media, discusses Bishop Morneau letter" article was published in The Compass September 28, 2018. Patricia Kasten, contributing editor for The Compass authored the editorial, "Some words of comfort, Scripture reflections for today".

October 2018

- VIRTUS training continues with 18 sessions
- Sam Lucero, contributing editor for The Compass authored the editorial, "Time to pray for the church" published in The Compass October 5, 2018.
- "Listening sessions" authored by Bishop David Ricken published in The Compass on October 12, 2018 in English and in Spanish.
- "Listening sessions: Responding to questions, part one" article was published in The Compass in the issue dated October 19, 2018.
- "Listening sessions: Responding to questions, part two" article was published in The Compass in the issue dated October 26, 2018.
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.
- Bishop Ricken received a letter from the auditors reporting that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance with the national standards for the 2017/2018 Charter Audit Period.

November 2018

- VIRTUS training continues with 13 sessions
- "Listening sessions: Responding to questions, part three" article was published in The Compass in the issue dated November 2, 2018.
- "Listening sessions: Responding to questions, part four" article was published in The Compass in the issue dated November 9, 2018.
- "Observations from USCCB meeting" article authored by Bishop David Ricken was published in The Compass on November 23, 2018.

December 2018

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

January 2019

- VIRTUS training continues with 10 sessions
- "Diocese releases names of priests with abuse allegations" article was published in The Compass January 18, 2019.
- "Profoundly sorry" article was published in The Compass January 25, 2019.
- "The release of diocesan priests' names" article was published in The Compass January 25, 2019.
- "Priests with substantiated abuse allegations" article was published in The Compass January 25, 2019.
- "Diocese hosts trauma recovery workshops Jan.31 and Feb.1" article was published in The Compass January 25, 2019.

February 2019

- VIRTUS training continues with 11 sessions
- "Church leaders attend trauma training session" article was published in The Compass February 8, 2019.
- "Journey of Hope" notice published in The Compass February 15, 2019 regarding the upcoming day of healing for those affected by sexual abuse to be held at the Norbertine Spirituality Center April 6, 2019.

March 2019

- VIRTUS training continues with 9 sessions
- "Diocese to remove Bishop Wycislo's name from center" article was published in The Compass March 1, 2019.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletin.

April 2019

- VIRTUS training continues with 7 sessions
- "Additional abuse victims come forward, says diocese" article was published in The Compass April 5, 2019.

- Child Abuse Prevention Mass held on the diocesan campus April 5, 2019 to pray to end all forms of child abuse.
- Two Prayer Services for Healing with Bishop David Ricken were held. The first Prayer Service for Healing was held on Wednesday April 10, 2019 at St Anthony Parish in Tigerton, WI. The second Prayer Service for Healing was held on Thursday April 11, 2019 at St Matthew Parish, Green Bay, WI.
- "A Day of Healing: Journey of Hope 3rd Annual Day of Healing Focused on Building Trust" retreat was held Saturday April 6, 2019 at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality. A day of reflection for survivors of sexual abuse, friends of survivors and other caring persons.

May 2019

- VIRTUS training continues with 12 sessions
- "Diocese updates list of clergy with sexual abuse allegations" article was published in The Compass May 24, 2019.

June 2019

- VIRTUS training continues with 11 sessions
- "An update on church's commitment to healing" article by Bishop David Ricken was published in The Compass June 21, 2019.
- Courtney Coopman was hired as the fulltime VAC, Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Green Bay.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

July 2019

- VIRTUS training continues with 7 sessions

August 2019

- VIRTUS training continues with 19 sessions
- 12 new VIRTUS Facilitators trained and commissioned for the parishes and Diocese of Green Bay
- Auditors from Stone Bridge Business Partners in Rochester, New York collect documents and statistical data to measure the Diocese of Green Bay's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and Essential Norms.*

September 2019

- VIRTUS training continues with 31 sessions

October 2019

- VIRTUS training continues with 11 sessions

November 2019

- VIRTUS training continues with 10 sessions
- Bishop Ricken received a letter from the auditors reporting that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance with the national standards for the 2018/2019 Charter Audit Period.
- November 5, 2019 the first ever Safe Environment Summit –Love for One Another, was held at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. Topics for the day included a Human Sex Trafficking presentation by 5 Stones, Individuals at Risk presentation by the Aging and Disability Resource Center, a witness talk on how clergy abuse has impacted a family and an Art-Therapy Experience. The day was envisioned for creating a deeper awareness of the challenges as well as positive ways forward in protecting the vulnerable in our care and promoting healing for those who have been harmed. Anyone providing ministry to children, youth, and individuals-at-risk were encouraged to attend. About 125 people from across the diocese were in attendance.

December 2019

- VIRTUS training continues with 11 sessions
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

January 2020

- VIRTUS training continues with 6 sessions
- Participated in the Human Trafficking Vigil January 11, 2020 held at Resurrection Parish, Green Bay.
- Letter to a Suffering Church-Bishop Barron book discussion held at St. Pius X in Appleton on Tuesday January 28, 2020 in the evening and Friday January 31, 2020 in the afternoon.

February 2020

- VIRTUS training continues with 5 sessions
- “Diocese implements ‘Awareity’ online platform to report ‘red flag’ behaviors” article was published in The Compass February 21, 2020

March 2020

- VIRTUS training continues with 7 sessions
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletin.

April 2020

- VIRTUS classroom training sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay added online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.

May 2020

- VIRTUS classroom training sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.

June 2020

- VIRTUS classroom training sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

July 2020

- VIRTUS classroom training sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.

August 2020

- VIRTUS classroom training sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.

September 2020

- VIRTUS classroom training sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.
- Deacon Dan Wagnitz retired from the Diocese as the Safe Environment Coordinator. Courtney Coopman will assume both the role of Safe Environment Coordinator and Victim Assistance Coordinator under the title of Diocesan Assistance Coordinator.

October 2020

- VIRTUS classroom training sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.
- The Diocese of Green Bay was scheduled for an onsite audit by Stone Bridge Partners, reviewing documents and statistical data evaluating the Diocese's compliance with the 17 articles of the USCCB's *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the Essential Norms the week of October 26, 2020. However due to the ongoing pandemic the audit was conducted virtually with the auditors virtually interviewing the Bishop, key area leaders and three parishes and one school.

November 2020

- One VIRTUS classroom training session was held for 3 people. All other sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.

December 2020

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.
- Bishop Ricken received a letter from the Stonebridge auditors reporting that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance with the national standards for the 2019/2020 Charter Audit Period.

January 2021

- One VIRTUS classroom training session was held for 1 person. All other classroom sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.

February 2021

- Classroom sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.

March 2021

- Classroom sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.

April 2021

- Classroom sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.
- Due to the ongoing pandemic the two Healing Services, normally held at two parishes in the Diocese during April, Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Month, were not held. The Day of Healing Retreat normally held at St Norbert Abbey was also not held. The Office of Safe Environment and Catholic Charities partnered to raise awareness of child sexual abuse by posting different information on the Diocese's Facebook page each week of April. Bishop Ricken also offered a Healing Prayer and Blessing video the last week of April which was posted on the Diocese's Facebook page.

May 2021

- Classroom sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.
- "Wisconsin opens investigation of sexual abuse in the state's five diocese" article published in the Compass, May 7, 2021.

June 2021

- Classroom sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

July 2021

- Classroom sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.

August 2021

- Classroom sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.
- Auditors from Stone Bridge Business Partners in Rochester, New York collect documents and statistical data to measure the Diocese of Green Bay's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and Essential Norms.*

September 2021

- Classroom sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.

October 2021

- Classroom sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.

November 2021

- Classroom sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.

December 2021

- Classroom sessions were cancelled due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages using the online safe environment training through VIRTUS as an additional option to receive safe environment training.
- Bishop Ricken received a letter from Stonebridge Auditors reporting that the Diocese of Green Bay is in full compliance with the national standards for the 2020/2021 Charter Audit Period.
- Chancery Notice was published in The Compass December 10, 2021 stating that the Diocese of Green Bay has received two claims of substantiated allegations of the sexual abuse of a minor by two priests, both whom are deceased.

- “Diocese announces additional names added to the clergy disclosure list” article was published in The Compass December 10, 2021.

January 2022

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

February 2022

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

March 2022

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

April 2022

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- Due to the continued concern with the ongoing pandemic the two Healing Services, normally held at two parishes in the Diocese during April, Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Month, were not held. The Day of Healing Retreat normally held at St Norbert Abbey was also not held. Bishop Ricken offered mass on the diocesan campus asking for prayers for the survivors and victims and those that have abused. Bishop’s homily was recorded and shared on the Diocese Facebook page. Materials were distributed to the parishes for use in their Sunday bulletins along with a Healing Prayer and a Healing Novena.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

May 2022

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

June 2022

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- Courtney Coopman, Diocesan Assistance Coordinator, attended the Child and Youth Protection Conference held in Grand Rapids, MI June 5 to June 8, 2022.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

July 2022

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

August 2022

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- Auditors from Stone Bridge Business Partners in Rochester, New York collect documents and statistical data to measure the Diocese of Green Bay's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and Essential Norms.*

September 2022

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.
- VIRTUS held their 19th annual VIRTUS Coordinators Conference in Chicago. The Office of Safe Environment participated virtually.

October 2022

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

November 2022

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- November 9, 2022, a LoSEC Appreciation Gathering was held at the St Francis Xavier Conference Room in the Chancery building. About 70 LoSEC's from parishes and schools throughout the diocese attended the gathering. The agenda included a recap of the results of the USCCB Audit for 2021-2022, a discussion on best practices and challenges, the importance of children's safe environment training and a ZOOM presentation by VIRTUS and ISP providing a glimpse of the new background check and safe environment training platform that the Diocese of Green Bay will transition to on 1-3-2023.

December 2022

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- December 16, 2022, the Diocese of Green Bay concluded their longstanding relationship with Austin Computing (eApps). Austin Computing was the front-end data gathering process for employees and volunteer applicants. The data was then submitted to ISP (Integrated Screening Partners) who performed the background check. The Diocese of Green Bay will move to the VIRTUS platform beginning January 3, 2023, for background checks and safe environment training.

January 2023

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- The Diocese of Green Bay moved to the VIRTUS platform beginning January 3, 2023, for background checks and safe environment training.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

February 2023

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

MARCH 2023

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

APRIL 2023

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- In recognition of Child Abuse Awareness Month, Bishop Ricken offered mass on the diocesan campus asking for prayers for the survivors, victims and those that have abused.
- Courtney Coopman, Diocesan Assistance Coordinator, attended the Child and Youth Protection Conference held in San Diego, CA April 16 to April 19, 2023.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

MAY 2023

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

JUNE 2023

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

JULY 2023

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

AUGUST 2023

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

- Auditors from Stone Bridge Business Partners in Rochester, New York collect documents and statistical data to measure the Diocese of Green Bay's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and Essential Norms.*

SEPTEMBER 2023

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- VIRTUS held their 20th annual VIRTUS Coordinators Conference in Chicago. Courtney Coopman, the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator attended.

OCTOBER 2023

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.
- The Diocese of Green Bay participated in an onsite audit conducted by Stone Bridge Partners, reviewing documents and statistical data evaluating the Diocese's compliance with the 17 articles of the USCCB's *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the Essential Norms the week of October 9, 2023. One auditor was onsite, and one auditor conducted interviews virtually. Most of the IRB members were interviewed along with Bishop Ricken, key area leaders and two parishes, one parish and school combination and one school system. Initial feedback was that the Diocese of Green Bay was complying with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the Essential Norms. The auditors made three recommendations: 1) translate the quarterly reporting bulletin into Hmong to accommodate the growing Hmong population in the diocese, 2) IRB board members expertise needs to include a licensed therapist that works with survivors, and 3) include an active parish priest on the board.

NOVEMBER 2023

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- Bishop holds Journey into Healing: An Experience of Prayerful Hope Towards Emotional Healing Service at St Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Neenah, Wednesday November 29, 2023.

DECEMBER 2023

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

JANUARY 2024

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

FEBRUARY 2024

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- Bishop holds Journey into Healing: An Experience of Prayerful Hope Towards Emotional Healing Service at St Bernard Parish in Green Bay on Wednesday February 27, 2024.

MARCH 2024

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

APRIL 2024

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- Bishop holds Journey into Healing: An Experience of Prayerful Hope Towards Emotional Healing Service at St John the Baptist Parish in Howard on Tuesday April 16, 2024.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

MAY 2024

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

JUNE 2024

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

JULY 2024

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- The Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the Diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

AUGUST 2024

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

SEPTEMBER 2024

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- VIRTUS held their 21st annual VIRTUS Coordinators Conference in Chicago. Both the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator and Safe Environment Coordinator attended.
- Auditors from Stone Bridge Business Partners in Rochester, New York collect documents and statistical data to measure the Diocese of Green Bay's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and Essential Norms.*

OCTOBER 2024

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.
- The Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the Diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

NOVEMBER 2024

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

DECEMBER 2024

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

JANUARY 2025

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

FEBRUARY 2025

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

MARCH 2025

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- On March 18th, 2025, a LoSEC Appreciation Gathering was held at the St Francis Xavier Conference Room in the Chancery building. About 50 LoSECs from parishes and schools throughout the Diocese attended the gathering. The agenda included a welcome/overview of the importance of the ministry of Safe Environment by USCCB Secretariat, Deacon Bernie Nojadera, a recap of the results of the USCCB Audit for 2024-2025, VIRTUS Tips and Tricks, a discussion on best practices and challenges, and a session on Self Care.
- Two VIRTUS Refresher Training Webinars were provided to LoSECs on March 26th and March 27th.

APRIL 2025

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- Two online forums were held for LoSECs on Wednesday, April 9th and Wednesday, April 10th to prepare for the annual audit.

MAY 2025

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of online safe environment training through VIRTUS.
- The Director, Office of Safe Environment/Victim Assistance Coordinator, Courtney Coopman, attended the Child and Youth Protection Catholic Leadership Conference held in Clearwater Beach, Florida from May 11-14th, 2025.

JUNE 2025

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of online safe environment training through VIRTUS.

JULY 2025

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of online safe environment training through VIRTUS.
- Updated yearly Recertification training through VIRTUS, *Healthy Boundaries for Adults: Boundary Development and Implementation 1.0,* replaced the *A Plan to Protect God's Children 4.0 Recertification Training.*

AUGUST 2025

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is now under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.
- Auditors from Stone Bridge Business Partners in Rochester, New York collect documents and statistical data to measure the Diocese of Green Bay's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and Essential Norms.*

SEPTEMBER 2025

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

- VIRTUS held their 22nd annual VIRTUS Coordinators Conference in Chicago. Both the Director, Office of Safe Environment/Victim Assistance Coordinator, Courtney Coopman and Safe Environment Coordinator, Caitlyn Cheslock attended.
- Auditors from Stone Bridge Business Partners in Rochester, New York collect documents and statistical data to measure the Diocese of Green Bay's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and Essential Norms.*

OCTOBER 2025

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- CARA Survey was submitted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The survey is used to demonstrate progress in implementing the *Charter* and reducing the incidences of sexual abuse within the church.
- The Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the Diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

NOVEMBER 2025

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

DECEMBER 2025

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

JANUARY 2026

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

FEBRUARY 2026

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.

MARCH 2026

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- On March 10th, 2026, a LoSEC Appreciation Gathering was held at the St Francis Xavier Conference Room in the Chancery building. About 50 LoSECs from parishes and schools throughout the Diocese attended the gathering. The agenda included a welcome/overview of the background check process by Senior Account Manager with ISP, Belinda Goodman, a recap of the results of the USCCB Audit for 2024-2025, VIRTUS Tips and Tricks, a discussion on mandated reporting requirements, along with a session on best practices and challenges.
- Two training webinars were provided to LoSECs on March 24th and March 26th to prepare for the upcoming audit.
- The Diocese distributes the quarterly announcement to all parishes asking people to: Report incidents of sexual abuse of a person who is under the age of 18 by a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer to immediately call the civil authorities and then the Diocese. If the person was abused as a minor but is now an adult, they are asked to contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator as well as local law enforcement authorities. The announcements are for parish bulletins.

APRIL 2026

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS.
- Two audit working group opportunities were provided to Local Safe Environment Coordinators on April 13th and April 23rd to provide assistance for the upcoming audit along with answering any questions.

MAY 2026

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of online safe environment training through VIRTUS.
- The Director, Office of Safe Environment/Victim Assistance Coordinator, Courtney Coopman, and Safe Environment Coordinator, Caitlyn Cheslock, attended the Child and Youth Protection Catholic Leadership Conference held in Phoenix, Arizona from May 10-13th, 2026.

JUNE 2026

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of online safe environment training through VIRTUS.

JULY 2026

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of online safe environment training through VIRTUS.

August 2026

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- Auditors from Stone Bridge Business Partners in Rochester, New York collect documents and statistical data to measure the Diocese of Green Bay's compliance with the 17 articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and Essential Norms.*
- The Diocese of Green Bay participated in an onsite audit conducted by Stone Bridge Partners, reviewing documents and statistical data evaluating the Diocese's compliance with the 17 articles of the USCCB's *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the Essential Norms the week of August 31st, 2026. One auditor was onsite. Most of the IRB members were interviewed along with Bishop Ricken, key area leaders and two parishes and two school/parish combinations. The Diocese was found compliant by Stone Bridge partners.

SEPTEMBER 2026

- The Diocese of Green Bay encourages the use of the online safe environment training through VIRTUS which was upgraded to version 4.0 to receive safe environment training.
- VIRTUS held their 23rd annual VIRTUS Coordinators Conference in Chicago. Director, Office of Safe Environment/Victim Assistance Coordinator, Courtney Coopman, attended.

UPDATED OCTOBER 2026