



"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." Heb. 13:8

Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Office of the Archbishop

January 16, 2009

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis is committed to keeping our youth and vulnerable adults as safe as possible from sexually abusive situations. With the adoption by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (2002, 2005)*, this commitment to our youth is reviewed by auditors to measure compliance with the *Charter*.

I support the Archdiocese's Protection of Children and Youth Initiative's use of "The Essential Three," which includes background checks, safe environment (VIRTUS) sessions, and reading/signing of codes of pastoral conduct for adults. I also support the curriculum choices that are presently being used for our children and young people.

My expectation is that pastors, Catholic school principals and directors of faith formation will work together to implement both adult and youth programs. I also expect that these leaders will gather the information needed for the Fall and Spring Audit Reports and for all other related forms, and that these forms will be submitted in a timely manner.

Please join with me in ensuring this commitment to our youth.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Nienstedt", with a small cross symbol to the left.

Most Reverend John Nienstedt
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis