

Safe Environment Compliance for Catechetical & Youth Ministry Programs

A Practical Seminar from the Departments of Lifelong Faith Formation and Youth & Young Adult Ministry

As part of our Diocesan Safe Environment policy, catechetical and youth ministry leaders **are obligated** to follow a number of procedures when hiring and screening staff and volunteers. In order to more efficiently meet the mandates set by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for their annual audit, we are introducing a new a reporting procedure to **help** all catechetical and youth ministry leaders monitor compliance in their program and prepare for their role in the annual Safe Environment audit.

Throughout the spring, Catechetical Leaders have been invited to attend one of several gatherings sponsored by the Department of Lifelong Faith Formation. **If you missed one of these seminars, or if you are the Youth Ministry Leader at your parish, we ask you to attend one of the following sessions:**

- ◆ **Wednesday, May 19, 10 AM-12:00 PM**
St. John the Baptist, 1085 Englewood Avenue, Kenmore
Seminar followed by daily Mass and a free Picnic lunch (optional)
- ◆ **Thursday, May 20, 7–8:30 PM:**
St. Christopher Parish at St. Edmund Campus, 530 Ellicott Creek Road, Tonawanda
Seminar followed by optional time for networking
- ◆ **Tuesday, May 25, 7-8:30 PM**
St. Mary of Lourdes, 41 Main Street, Bemus Point
Seminar followed by optional time for networking

Please call 716-847-8789 or email dvosburgh@buffalodiocese.org to RSVP.

If you cannot make any of these sessions (esp. because of distance), please contact Kathy Goller (716-847-8789 or kgoller@buffalodiocese.org) to arrange an alternative meeting. We need to orient every Catechetical & Youth Ministry Leader to these new procedures!

SPECIAL NOTE FOR CATECHETICAL LEADERS WHO HAVE ALREADY ATTENDED A SEMINAR: Should you include youth ministry volunteers in your report? Answer the following questions:

- Are you the key contact for youth ministry, and also the parish Catechetical Leader?
- Are all or most of the volunteers for youth ministry also catechists or volunteers in the religious education program?
- Do you supervise the staff and volunteers in youth ministry?

If you answered "yes" to the statements above, then be sure to follow these directions:

- Code all youth ministry staff or volunteers with the **"Role" of REL. ED. VOL. / CATECHIST** to ensure that these people appear on your Master Report so that you can check their compliance.
- Use the **REVISED Compliance Form** for reporting your compliance and indicate that the form is for **BOTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY.**