Child and Youth Protection and Compliance

A Pastoral Message from

Archbishop Jeffrey S. Grob

Dear Brother Priests, Deacons, Parish and School Leaders, and Members of Our Archdiocesan Community,

I am pleased to share with you the results of the recent Safe Environment audit conducted in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee by StoneBridge Business Partners for the period of April 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026.

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has been found compliant with all audited Articles of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. This is an important affirmation of the work that so many of you do every day to make our parishes, schools, and ministries safe places for children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

I am grateful to our priests, deacons, employees, catechists, volunteers, teachers, administrators, and parish and school leaders who take seriously their responsibility to create a culture of protection and care. Your commitment to Safe Environment requirements is an essential expression of our pastoral responsibility.

At the same time, the auditors offered several recommendations for our continued growth. These recommendations **do not affect our compliance with the Charter**. Rather, they provide us with opportunities to strengthen our practices and ensure that our commitment to safeguarding is lived consistently throughout the Archdiocese.

Among the recommendations are:

- **Ministry to the homebound:** We will continue to evaluate the Safe Environment requirements for those who serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to homebound parishioners, particularly when serving individuals who may be especially vulnerable.
- **Parish and school audits:** We will work toward developing a more consistent process of periodic parish and school audits. These visits are not intended only as inspections, but also as opportunities for collaboration, support, education, and accountability.
- **Accurate records:** We will continue working with the appropriate archdiocesan offices to ensure that our Safe Environment records and compliance information accurately reflect those who are actively serving in our parishes, schools, and ministries.

- **Reporting information:** Every parish and school should prominently display information explaining how to report suspected abuse or neglect, including the appropriate contact information. This information should also be readily available in parish communications and bulletins.
- **Website resources:** Parishes and schools should provide a prominent link on their websites to the Archdiocesan Safe Environment webpage so that parishioners, families, employees, and volunteers can easily find the most current information and resources.

These recommendations remind us that **Safe Environment is not simply a program or a requirement—it is part of who we are as a Church.** Protecting children and vulnerable adults is a shared responsibility and a fundamental part of our pastoral ministry.

I ask each of you to continue approaching this responsibility with diligence, openness, and a spirit of collaboration. Our goal is not merely to meet a standard, but to build and sustain a culture in which every person is treated with dignity, respect, and care.

I am grateful for your continued partnership and commitment. Together, with the grace of God, we can continue strengthening our parishes, schools, and ministries as places where children, young people, families, and vulnerable adults are safe, respected, and able to encounter Christ.

With gratitude and prayer,

Most Reverend Jeffrey S. Grob
Archbishop of Milwaukee