



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

DECREE

Promulgating the Safe Environment Training Program for Adults

PREAMBLE

The protection of children and youth is a sacred trust given to us by God and remains a fundamental priority for the clergy, religious, and laity of the Diocese of Saginaw. Committed to fostering safe environments for young people, the Diocese mandates training for all adults—whether clergy, employees, or volunteers who have direct contact with or routine interaction with minors. Additionally, all youth enrolled in Catholic schools and parish religious education/formation programs will receive annual training.

In fidelity to the Church's commitment to safeguarding minors and vulnerable adults, and following consultation with the Diocese of Saginaw Review Board,

I, the undersigned Bishop of the Diocese of Saginaw, do hereby approve and promulgate the updated Diocese of Saginaw Safe Environment Training Program for Adults, completed August 2024.

DECREE

Therefore:

1. The Safe Environment Training program is the diocesan-approved training that all clergy, employees, and regular volunteers shall complete before engaging in ministry or service involving children or vulnerable adults.
2. All children and youth enrolled in Catholic schools and parish Religious Education/Formation Programs shall receive annual safe environment training.
3. This updated training shall address the evolving challenges faced by minors and vulnerable adults, particularly in light of increased engagement with digital platforms. Special emphasis is placed on the Diocese of Saginaw Code of Conduct, ensuring heightened awareness of appropriate behavior and the obligation to report any violations.

THE LAW

In accordance with canon 29 of the Code of Canon Law, I declare that this policy obtains the force of particular law in the Diocese of Saginaw and is binding upon all clergy, religious, employees, and volunteers within the Diocese. This policy takes effect immediately upon publication and supersedes all previous versions of the Safe Environment Training Program.

All provisions of this decree must be observed in their entirety. Anything to the contrary, even if worthy of particular mention, is hereby abrogated.

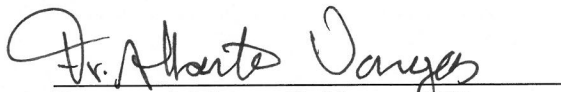
This decree shall be published on the diocesan website, and all parishes, schools, and diocesan institutions must ensure its full implementation.

Given on this 5th day of February in the year of Our Lord 2025, at the Chancery of Saginaw.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss
Bishop of Saginaw



Reverend Alberto E. Vargas, JCL.
Chancellor pro-tem