

Important Notice to All Volunteers

The Diocese of Greensburg has undertaken numerous actions to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm by anyone in Church ministry. Church volunteers share in the whole Church's work of protection and vigilance.

In 2015, Bishop Brandt enacted the requirement that all diocesan, parish, and school employees and volunteers complete and maintain several required clearances and trainings. These requirements have since been updated by Bishop Malesic. Most of these clearances and trainings must be renewed periodically, at least once every five years.

Since most of our parish volunteers completed these requirements when they were first put in place in 2015, it is now time to renew them. If your clearances and/or trainings have expired or are near expiration, you will receive a letter from Carol with instructions on how to renew them.

It is important to do this for two reasons:

The Clearances are required by State Law—The PA Criminal Record Check, PA Child Abuse Clearance, and the Volunteer Affidavit (or FBI Fingerprint check) are mandated by the 2014 Child Protection Services Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (CPSL). They are required for volunteers who interact with children in any organization. This same law also affirms that **all volunteers in these organizations are Mandated Reporters of child abuse.**

The Trainings help volunteers to understand and apply the CPSL—These include the Pitt Mandated Reporter Training which explains the CPSL in detail, VIRTUS training for Protecting God's Children, and the Diocesan Code of Pastoral Conduct. The Code of Pastoral Conduct was revised in 2018, so all volunteers will need to re-read and complete the signature sheet. Recently, the Diocese mandated that all volunteers must also take a re-certification of VIRTUS every five years.

All of these items are available online at the web page that you will find in your letter. If you cannot complete these at home, you will need to make an appointment with Carol to come to the Parish Office to complete them.

If you receive one of these letters, **please make it a priority to complete all of the parts that need to be completed or renewed**, and to do so **as soon as possible**. These are an **all-or-nothing** matter—volunteers who are not in compliance with all parts cannot serve as volunteers. Although most parish activities have been suspended, we want all of our volunteers to be able to resume their ministries immediately once activities resume.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter, and for all the service that you give to our parish.