

## **DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM TRAINING**

Our diocesan Safe Environment Program (SEP) consists of training modules for those working or volunteering with the vulnerable members of our society: children/youth and vulnerable adults. Each training module prepares individuals entrusted with the care, responsibility, and or supervision of children or vulnerable adults to provide a safe environment. The Diocese of St. Petersburg conducts these trainings in cooperation with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations.

**Safe Environment Program for Access to Children and Youth** – this program and its various formats is an adaptation of the Girls and Boys Town Center for Family and Adolescent Spirituality Safe Environments Program. It teaches anyone with unsupervised access to children and youth to watch for signs of abuse in a child, to recognize signs of predatory behavior in an adult and to report actual or suspected child abuse –sexual or otherwise, to law enforcement or to the Florida Department of Children and Family’s abuse hotline first.

Adults attending the Safe Environment Program receive training shaped to their individual responsibilities as follows:

### **A. Safe Environment Program Training for Adults**

1. Provides live SEP training for adult educators, volunteers, seminarians, employees, contractors, and vendors (English and Spanish)
2. Provides live SEP training for priests (English and Spanish)
3. Provides live SEP training for international priests (English and Spanish)
4. Provides live SEP training for deacons and religious (English and Spanish)
5. Provides SEP online recertification training for groups 1 through 4, above (English and Spanish)
6. Provides SEP orientation training for parents and guardians of minors (English)

### **B. Safe Environment Program Training for Children and Youth**

1. Provides age-appropriate SEP classroom training to children and youth in the Diocesan Catholic Schools and Early Childhood Centers based on age-appropriate programs selected by principals and directors (English)
2. Provides SEP Classroom Training for children and youth in parish faith formation training by catechists and faith formation directors (English)
3. Provides online SEP training for children in grades 4-12 (English)

**Safe Environment Program Training for Access to Vulnerable Adults** (*Required for all Clergy, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the sick and homebound and Pastoral Care Providers*) – This training is provided in accordance with Florida State Statutes and Catholic moral principles. It differs from SEP training for adults with unsupervised access to children. It includes safety training and liturgical preparation for those distributing the Eucharist to the sick and homebound. This training does not qualify individuals for unsupervised access to children and youth.

1. Provides live SEP training for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the homebound (English and Spanish)
2. Provides live SEP training for Pastoral Care Providers who assist the homebound as a ministry (English and Spanish)
3. Provides online recertification training for individuals in groups 1 and 2, above (English and Spanish)