



**MOST REVEREND JOSEPH R. KOPACZ, D.D., PH.D.**  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE *of* JACKSON

January, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Diocese of Jackson is committed to ensuring that children served by the Church are not at risk of abuse by Church personnel or volunteers. Furthermore, we continue to be committed to being a community that cares for and protects children and youth. Our Protection of Children Office seeks to protect, enhance and restore the trust that our faith calls for between agents of the Church and the children and adolescents entrusted to our care.

The Diocese of Jackson requires ongoing safe environment training for all clergy, religious, employees and volunteers who have significant contact with children and youth. We are now able to offer VIRTUS Online which is a state-of-the art, web-based platform that provides concise best practice safe environment resource material on a monthly basis.

We hope you find the monthly format convenient and instructive. The VIRTUS web-based program allows you to log-in to the website, read the safe environment resource material and complete a quiz. This can be done from any computer with internet access.

I offer my sincere thanks to all of the faithful for your past vigilance and ask for your continued support in the future. At the very least, our children deserve safe environments and the Catholic Church is committed to doing all it can to provide this for children who engage in faith formation, and in church sponsored events. With families and church personnel working together, our children and youth can learn to thrive, growing in wisdom, knowledge, and grace.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and protect us. With gratitude for all you do on behalf of our children, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joseph R. Kopacz'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Joseph R. Kopacz  
Bishop of Jackson