



January 24, 2023

**Announcement to be made in each parish as soon as possible  
(You are invited to read this message slowly and clearly during the announcements  
given after the next masses held in your parish)**

Our diocese has some priority projects for 2023, one of which is to implement, in all parishes, the Diocesan Guide for the *Protection of minors and vulnerable persons in parish settings*, that you may have already heard about. **(If possible, this would be a good time to show the Guide binder to the assembly while you speak)**

What we are talking about here, is the protection of vulnerable persons from all forms of abuse, assault, or misconduct of a sexual nature in our parish environments. The project to safeguard our parishes also touches on other aspects such as protecting confidentiality, parish property, collected monies, preventing theft, fraud, etc. This is of concern to all parish employees and volunteers, including priests.

Since last September, the Diocesan Coordinator of the project has been meeting with all the parishes to present the Guide, which includes a Code of Ethics and Conduct adopted by the diocese for all parishes. Some of you may have noticed that a poster has been put up, reminding us of the values that are to be respected when working in the parish. **(at this time you may indicate the location of the poster of the Code of Ethics)** In the parish it is important to behave respectfully and appropriately towards each other and especially towards those we serve.

One individual, or more, has been identified in each of the parishes (or is about to be identified) to work with the diocese to put measures in place to ensure safety in our parish. **(if you know who that is, this is a good time to give his/her name(s))**

You can consult the diocesan website under the heading "*Documents*" where you will find the Guide which is entitled, ***For the sake of the little ones ...protect minors and vulnerable adults***, the Code of Ethics and Conduct and Mgr. Durocher's decree which makes clear the obligation to implement the Guide in each parish.

Chantale Duguay

Diocesan Coordinator for the implementation of safe environments.