



DIOCESE OF GALLUP

PO Box 1338
Gallup, New Mexico 87305

PROMULGATION

September 5, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our children and young people are among society's most vulnerable, and the Church takes very seriously the obligations to protect them. The Diocese of Gallup continues to work diligently to comply with the *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* as part of our church's response to prevent the abuse of children. We are committed to observe its precepts.

Our actions include scrutiny of new employees and volunteers plus education of our staff, and assemblies for increased awareness, prevention and reporting of abuse. We also mandate education for the children in our programs in the knowledge of behavior to expect from adults and what to do if they encounter anything inappropriate.

With this letter I approve several revisions in the *Diocese of Gallup Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Minors*. The changes were made to provide greater clarity in portions of the previous edition of the policy. Several appendices were added for reference and administrative support to include one which provides firm guidance for allowable activity by persons with a history of various criminal convictions. Our goal is to create an environment within all the facilities and activities in our Diocese that is free of any sort of abuse or activity that would compromise the safety or well-being of all participants. This includes vigilance to risks caused by the changing social realities of our times. Our vision is that our church remains a place of peace and security to learn, play, worship and encounter the Living Christ.

Pope Francis added a new parameter in the scope of abuse prevention with the promulgation of *Vos estis lux mundi* (May 7, 2019). I fully support the directives and protocols issued by the USCCB to implement the Pope's instructions. I and this diocese will abide by the directions and policies established by the metropolitan archbishop for reporting and accountability of the actions of bishops. These will be published for the benefit of the faithful.

The people of the Diocese of Gallup have done outstanding work to ensure the safety and well-being of the children entrusted to our care. I thank all those responsible for carrying out our policies over the past ten years of my episcopacy. Through this revised plan we will continue to improve our programs to provide a safe environment for our children, young people and other vulnerable persons. With this letter I recommit our diocese to this cause and declare that this Policy has the force of diocesan law and is binding on the whole Diocese of Gallup with the effective date of September 5, 2019. May the Lord bless our work, and may we rely on the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Diocese of Gallup, so that all we do might be to the greater glory of God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

James Seán Wall
Bishop of Gallup