

# ***You can help protect all God's children***

## ***Please be aware and watchful. . .***

In the Diocese of Tyler all Church personnel (that is: priests, deacons, religious, employees and those volunteers who come in regular contact with minors or vulnerable adults) have committed in writing to observing the following code in their life and ministry in the Diocese of Tyler.

You need to know that as part of our Church's witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it is imperative that all Church personnel in the Diocese consistently act with ethics and integrity. People of all ages deserve to be respected and protected in their relationships with Church personnel. Defining healthy and safe relationships is not meant, in any way, to undermine the strength and importance of appropriate personal contact or the ministerial role. Rather, it is to assist all who fulfill the many roles that create the living Church to demonstrate their love and compassion for children and adults through sincere and genuine relationships.

**Your awareness of these key points will help create a safe and healthy environment for all.**

### **Key Points of the Code of Ethics and Integrity for Conduct of Church Personnel in the Diocese of Tyler**

- I. Church personnel will exhibit the highest Christian ethical standards and personal integrity.
- II. Church personnel will conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the discipline and teachings of the Catholic Church.
- III. Church personnel will foster a professional work environment that is free from physical, psychological, written, or verbal intimidation or harassment.
- IV. Church personnel will act professionally in all counseling, advising, or spiritual direction relationships protecting the wellbeing of the other party at all times.
- V. Church personnel will not physically, sexually or emotionally abuse or neglect a minor or an adult.
- VI. Church personnel will share concerns about suspicious or inappropriate behavior with their pastor, their principal, the Promoter of Justice, or the Bishop.
- VII. Church personnel will report any suspected abuse or neglect of a minor to the **Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (1-800-252-5400)** or [www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org). **In case of an EMERGENCY, call 911.**
- VIII. Church personnel will accept their personal responsibility to protect minors and adults from all forms of abuse.
- IX. Church personnel will guide their behaviors by this Code, civil and canon law, policies of the Diocese of Tyler, particularly the diocesan guidelines for Ethics and Integrity in Ministry.

***Suspected crimes should always be reported to the Police!***

**Concerns about violations of this Code can be reported to:**

**Promoter of Justice (903) 266-2159**

Rev. Gavin N. Vaverek, JCL [promoter@dioceseoftyler.org](mailto:promoter@dioceseoftyler.org)

If you or someone you know has been abused in the past by someone working for the Church, whether in the Diocese of Tyler or elsewhere, please contact the Promoter of Justice for Victim Assistance.