



Archdiocese of Vancouver
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

St. Juan Diego
December 9, 2009

Re: Implementation of “Protecting God’s Children”

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

By this letter, I am pleased to promulgate the Archdiocese’s “Protecting God’s Children” policy. This policy, announced at the Priest’s Study Day on September 23, 2009, outlines how we shall be implementing a screening program for all employees and volunteers interacting with minor-aged young people (aged 18 years or younger).

Insofar as the lay faithful assist their pastors in directing parish activities, certain policies and procedures must be set up so that all concerned will understand their respective responsibilities. Clear boundaries must be in place for the protection of the clergy, the lay Christian faithful – employees and volunteers - and especially of our young people and vulnerable adults, including the elderly and people who are disabled.

Because this program is designed to be preventive, it will involve police record checks (now a standard protocol for all school and extra-curricular youth activities) and training regarding a “code of conduct for all employees and volunteers.” The program offers a clear protocol for dealing with a crisis situation.

In order to move ahead in implementing this new protocol, your assistance and cooperation are essential. I wish to thank you, our volunteers and employees, for your dedicated and faithful service to our Catholic community. The robustness of our Archdiocese, enriched by an expansive range of programs for our young people and their families, is a testimony to your commitment.

With cordial best wishes and the assurance of my prayers for you and your families, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+ Michael Miller CSB

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