



June 16, 2014

OFFICE of the BISHOP

Dear Brother Priests,

In the Diocese of Des Moines, we are enormously blessed in the richness of beautiful parishes, schools, and cemeteries. While we are entrusted with stained glass and stone we must never forget that we are also entrusted with our Church's most valuable asset: her people. Through the ministries of our parishes and schools, we care for our parishioners, students, staff, and guests spiritually in the celebration of Mass, other sacraments and prayer, and corporally through the works of mercy. This stewardship also extends to ensuring that all are safe while they engage in the life of the Church.

I am pleased to introduce a new initiative which promotes a safety culture in the Diocese of Des Moines and its institutions. It is our goal to protect people and property throughout our diocese with this program. The Safety Culture Subcommittee of our Diocesan Risk Management Committee has adopted the slogan: "*Think Safety, Yours and Mine.*" A Safety Statement has been developed, as well, and is enclosed with this letter.

This proposal was reviewed by the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Des Moines and no objections were forthcoming. It also enjoys the strong endorsement of the Diocesan Finance Council. Besides increasing safety, implementation of a strong safety code can potentially reduce insurance costs on a parish by parish basis. I ask each parish and school to review the Safety Statement and identify a committee as outlined. Please form your committee and schedule your first meeting no later than the end of October. The Safety Culture Subcommittee, with the help of Catholic Mutual Group and LaMair Mulock and Condon, will be offering training throughout the year to promote safety within our parishes and schools.

The subcommittee has prepared resources to assist your committee which can be found at [www.dmdiocese.org/safety.cfm](http://www.dmdiocese.org/safety.cfm). For additional information please contact Eileen Valdez, Director of Human Resources, at (515) 237-5085 or [evaldez@dmdiocese.org](mailto:evaldez@dmdiocese.org).

I extend heartfelt gratitude for your great work in the mission of the Diocese of Des Moines and for your support of this important initiative.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Richard E. Pates  
Bishop of Des Moines

CC: Parish Finance Council Chair and Business Manager