



Parish Safety Committees

OFFICE of the BISHOP

June 25, 2015

Dear Father,

A year ago, the Priest Presbyteral Council and the Diocesan Finance Council approved a proposal to initiate a safety culture throughout the Diocese of Des Moines. A Safety Statement was prepared which included the development of a Safety Committee at each parish. Now that safety committees are in place, perhaps a key person has emerged as leader of the committee – your **Safety Coordinator**. If such a person has not been identified, I am asking you to identify a Safety Coordinator presently.

The Safety Culture Subcommittee of our Diocesan Risk Management Committee has been working on various resources for safety committees. In order to ensure that any safety information and training opportunities the Safety Culture Subcommittee has to share will get to the appropriate people, I ask that you send the **contact information**, i.e., name, email, and phone number, of your Safety Coordinator to the Diocesan Finance Department at finance@dmdiocese.org or 601 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309 **by July 15, 2015**. The Finance Department will develop a list of the contact information to share with other safety committees diocesan wide and for use in the dissemination of future safety materials.

Our enhanced safety consciousness is already bearing the fruit of reducing safety hazards through the use of Sharing God's Gifts funds for projects such as fixing concrete parking lots and walkways, repairing crumbling steps, and adding handrails to areas with steps. With our new increased overall safety awareness, we have increased the safety for all who worship, visit, work, or volunteer with us.

I continue to extend heartfelt gratitude for your great work in the mission of the Diocese and for your support of our Safety Culture.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Bishop of Des Moines

CC: Parish Finance Council Chair and Business Manager