



**St. Mary Queen of Peace
Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy
in the USA & Canada**

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Dear Rt. Rev. Corepiscopoi, Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, and Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Cordial Greetings to you!

In the St. Mary Queen of Peace Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy in the USA & Canada, our Safe Environment program and victim assistance ministry is making great strides in prevention, detection and early intervention efforts. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery Corepiscopo who initiated this process, and to Rev. Fr. Jobin Thomas who brought this program to its completion.

I am promulgating the newly drafted Diocesan Safe Environments policies found at: <https://mccna.org/sites/default/files/epl/SMQoP%20Eparchy%20Safe%20Environment%20Policies%20and%20Procedures.pdf> effective **July 3, 2022**.

In the Eparchy, we continue to use the VIRTUS®, Protecting God's Children program to educate adults about the warning signs of sexual abuse and safe boundaries that all adults must adhere to when working with minors and vulnerable adults. VIRTUS will continue to be the initial training program required for all members of the Clergy, Seminarians, Religious Sisters and Brothers, and Volunteers.

The Eparchy also offers Teaching Safety — Empowering God's Children program. Parents with children enrolled in Catechism Classes in our Parishes and Missions are encouraged to attend Safe Environment training

The following portions of the Safe Environment Program still remain intact:

- Policy on Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons and the Code of Ethics and Integrity (last updated on January 1, 2021). These are published on the Eparchial Website (MCCNA.org under the Protecting Our Children menu)

The Eparchy has a **ZERO** tolerance policy for abuse. Let us remain vigilant in our commitment and efforts to protect our most vulnerable from all forms of abuse and neglect.

Thanking You,

+ Philipos Mar Stephanos Thottathil

Eparch of St. Mary Queen of Peace Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy in the USA & Canada

Dated: June 24, 2022