

## 1. Creating a Safer Community Together

The Diocese of Palm Beach is deeply committed to protecting the most vulnerable among us, especially children and vulnerable adults. The **Office of Safe Environments** is a trusted resource for families, educators, and community members who want to ensure safety is always a priority.

Explore [www.diocesepb.org/safe-environments.html](http://www.diocesepb.org/safe-environments.html) to find:

- Clear policies and procedures that promote accountability
- Educational tools and training programs
- Background screening guidelines
- Tips for staying safe both online and in everyday life
- Parenting insights and links to helpful websites

Through proactive measures and a strong commitment to prevention, the Diocese continues to build a culture where safety isn't just a goal - it's a way of life.

## 2. Standing Strong for Safety and Healing

At the Diocese of Palm Beach, protecting minors and vulnerable adults isn't just a policy - it's a promise. We are fully committed to creating safe, nurturing environments where every person is treated with dignity and care. If you or someone you know has experienced abuse by Church personnel—whether clergy, religious, employees, or volunteers—please reach out to law enforcement. For emotional, psychological, and spiritual support, our **Victim Assistance Coordinator** is here to help. Call **(561) 775-9558** to begin your healing journey. To learn more about how we respond to and prevent abuse, including our policies visit [www.diocesepb.org/safe-environments.html](http://www.diocesepb.org/safe-environments.html). Together, we're building a Church where safety, compassion, and accountability are at the heart of everything we do.

## 3. Empowering Children to Stay Safe

At the Diocese of Palm Beach, protecting children isn't just a responsibility - it's a mission. We believe that prevention starts with education, and that every child deserves the knowledge and confidence to stay safe. That's why we've embraced the **“VIRTUS Teaching Safety – Empowering God’s Children”** program. This initiative equips parents, teachers, catechists, and youth ministers with age- appropriate tools to help children recognize unsafe situations and respond with courage and clarity. Twice a year, every child in our parishes and schools receives personal safety instruction designed to build awareness, strengthen boundaries, and foster trust. Want to learn more about how we're building a safer future? Visit [www.diocesepb.org/education-and-training-of-adults-children-and-youth](http://www.diocesepb.org/education-and-training-of-adults-children-and-youth). Together, we're raising a generation that knows its worth—and how to protect it.

#### **4. Protecting Vulnerable Adults with Compassion and Care**

At the Diocese of Palm Beach, safeguarding vulnerable adults is a sacred responsibility. Whether it's someone facing physical challenges, emotional struggles, developmental disabilities, or the effects of aging, we believe every person deserves dignity, respect, and protection. To ensure this, we offer **specialized training** for anyone who works with vulnerable adults - those over 18 whose daily lives may be impacted by disability or age-related conditions. This training isn't just a requirement for volunteers - it's an invitation for all parishioners to be part of a more informed, caring community. Want to learn more? Visit [www.diocesepb.org/education-and-training-of-adults-children-and-youth](http://www.diocesepb.org/education-and-training-of-adults-children-and-youth) to help foster safety, understanding, and hope. Together, we're building a Church where every adult feels seen, supported, and safe.