

Office for a Safe Environment in Ministry
Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic
Woodland Park, New Jersey

2022 Safe Environment Clergy Continuing Education Program

1. Website – eparchypassaicse.com
2. Letters of Good Standing/Suitability & Celebrets
 - Required information on website under “Clergy”
 - Timeliness in requesting Letters of Good Standing
3. Visiting Clergy requirements
 - One time event/celebration/liturgy – Letter of Good Standing/Suitability from proper jurisdiction
 - Regular or extended assistance in parish/activity – Comply with eparchial safe environment program mandates fully inclusive of Letter of Good Standing from proper jurisdiction, eparchial criminal background check, eparchial training
 - Priests within the Metropolitan Province of New Jersey - Celebret from local NJ diocese or Letter of Good Standing
 - Bi-Ritual Clergy - Must comply with eparchial safe environment program mandates fully.
4. Parish Audits must be timely or they are of no help and place the eparchy in a difficult position with regard to required reporting.
5. Ongoing training of Volunteers & Clergy every five years in all parishes and programs of the eparchy
6. Implementation of Children & Youth Training Curriculum
 - On website under “Training Texts” tab “Children’s Training Syllabus”.
7. Regarding all parish facility rentals/leases consult Mr. Thomas Duch, Esq. for lease agreement that covers important matters and safe environment.

8. Boundaries:

- Residence is for the housing of clergy and immediate family only. Extended stay by others is permitted only with the knowledge and permission of the Bishop.
- Relationship with parishioners must be pastoral not personal.
- Physical touching of individuals is forbidden.
- Temples are not to be places of accommodation or housing.
- Camping on parish grounds is not appropriate or safe. Carpathian Village or commercial camp grounds are more appropriate.
- Avoid being engaged in interactions apart from the church or in less than public places; never alone.
- Holy Confession should be carried out with a degree of privacy but in a way that assures your integrity and affords penitent personal safety.
- **Be a professional!**

9. Legal matters:

- Report all accusations to the Bishop or Safe Environment Coordinator immediately.
- Be sure to consult our attorney, Mr. Duch regarding any leases or rentals of property so that the appropriate lease/rental agreement may be executed.
- When contacted by any attorney regarding accusations, or other safe environment issue of a legal nature refer the attorney to our eparchial attorney, Mr. Duch. **Do not assume you can respond to such inquires or issues.**
- Remember, we are mandated reporters in Pennsylvania and most states as regards accusations of abuse and are liable under law to insure that all accusations of sexual abuse of minors are reported.
- Any accusation of impropriety with adults must be reported to the Office for a Safe Environment in Ministry immediately.