



**DIOCESE OF  
SAN JOSE**

**OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

**BISHOP'S PLEDGE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN  
AND VULNERABLE ADULTS**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I present to you the current revision of our diocesan *Safe Environment Policy*. This policy reviews the ways in which we, the local church of the Diocese of San Jose, work systematically and proactively to ensure the safety and well-being of children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

The Diocese of San Jose, as other dioceses across the United States, has implemented many effective protocols since the adoption of the so-called Dallas Charter in June 2002. Nonetheless, the distressing events of 2018, particularly the case of the former cardinal, Theodore McCarrick, and the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report, made it clear that there is still more work to be done with regard to the accountability of bishops and senior leadership. The new guidelines from Pope Francis and the adopted protocols in the U.S. for bishops bring us to a place of greater accountability.

We are reminded in the Scriptures, from the story of Cain and Abel to the story of the Good Samaritan, that we indeed bear a moral responsibility for one another. As Jesus placed a child in the middle of his disciples, he taught clearly: "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me" (Mk 9:37). We are not only responsible for each other as members of the same human family – we have a special responsibility for those who can least protect themselves, the most vulnerable.

I am grateful to Anthony Gonzalez and the Office for the Protection for Children and Vulnerable Adults, as well as to Justice Edward Panelli and the Diocesan Review Board, for the work they have done on this Policy and for all their efforts on behalf of the most vulnerable among us.

As we continue to pray for victim/survivors of abuse and work for their healing, we redouble our efforts for a safe environment in our churches and schools.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Oscar Cantú  
Bishop of San José