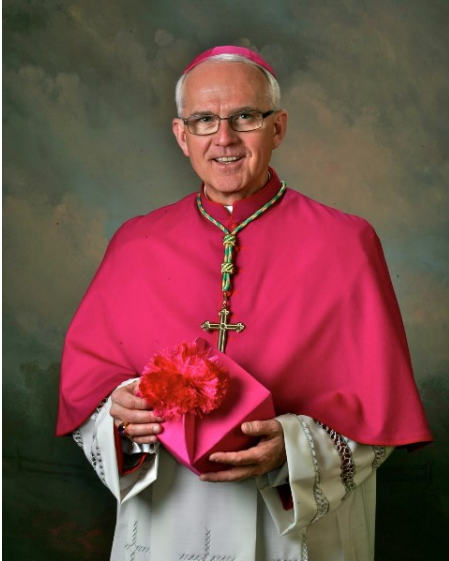


PROMISE TO
PROTECT



PLEDGE TO
HEAL



Dear Friends in Christ:

The Diocese of Ogdensburg continues in our efforts to create a climate of safety for all the youth entrusted to our pastoral care. We remain committed to fulfilling our pledge: to promote healing and reconciliation with victims/survivors of sexual abuse; to guarantee an effective response to allegations of sexual abuse; to implement procedures that protect the faithful in the future; and to hold accountable those who have harmed our children.

The Church offers immediate and ongoing pastoral care to those who have suffered such abuse. I encourage these individuals to contact our Victims' Assistance Coordinator, Ms. Terrienne Yanulavich at 518-483-3261 to report such abuse and for assistance with the healing process. We are deeply sorry for any past failures in addressing properly the sinful acts by Church leaders that have been perpetrated against our youth.

Because We Care deeply for the vulnerable among us, the Church of Ogdensburg continues to review our policies and explore ways to ensure that our children are protected from all who would harm them. Under the direction and fine guidance of Sister Ellen Donahue, SA, Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator, we are diligently working to ensure that the national and diocesan policies established to provide safe environments for our children are implemented fully here in the North Country. With the strong support and cooperation of our pastors and pastoral staff, we have taken seriously this responsibility. For the last thirteen years, independent audits have been conducted here to determine compliance with these policies. Every year, the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been found to be compliant.

I am grateful to all those individuals who assist with the implementation of our safe environment programs in our Diocese. Many individuals spend countless hours in our parishes and schools to train adults in providing safe environments for our children and youth. Their continuing cooperation and prayers help us all keep the promise to protect and the pledge to heal. As Jesus, the Good Shepherd, showed constant care for the vulnerable, your local Church, working with our parents, is seeking to do likewise.

With a Shepherd's care and concern,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg