THE ARCHDIOCESE
OF KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS

OFFICE OF ARCHBISHOP SHAWN MCKNIGHT, S.Th.D.

27 August 2026
Memorial of St. Monica

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

In order to support our efforts to foster a safe environment at every level of ecclesial life within the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, and in collaboration with the entire Church in the United States of America, we seek to continue developing our vigilance and to ensure our compliance with the 2026 Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People of the USCCB. I am pleased to issue this letter to promulgate the components of the Archdiocese abuse prevention program overseen by the Office for Prevention and Care.

Together as an Archdiocese, we are deeply committed to protecting the vulnerable members of our community. Thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers, we have developed a comprehensive safeguarding program. We commit ourselves to robust structures and procedures that prevent abuse, mandate the reporting of suspicious behavior or actions, and respond to allegations of abuse with compassion using restorative practices. To support these measures, we have the Abuse Prevention Policy as well as numerous guidelines and work-aids available to our clergy, seminarians, religious, employees and volunteers.

We continue to use the Virtus® platform and programming for our abuse prevention training for adults, specifically requiring the Protecting God's Children awareness workshop for initial training. Ongoing training will be provided through various sources, including the monthly Virtus® best practice bulletins. Background screenings will continue to be conducted using Zaeplex. Educating our children and youth in Catholic Schools and Parish Religious Education programs will continue to be provided by teachers, and, in home-based programs, parents, using the Virtus® Empowering God's Children or by professional educators through the Sunflower House ©P.S. Academy.

Protecting our community from abuse in any form is a sacred duty we all share. I implore everyone to take every step necessary to maintain safe and holy environments for our entire community.

Entrusting to the Blessed Mother as Mother of the Church all our efforts to protect the vulnerable and build a culture of safe environment for all our people, I am

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+Shawn M. McKnight

Most Rev. Shawn McKnight, S.Th.D.
Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas

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