



*Office of the Bishop*

*Diocese of Erie  
P. O. Box 10397  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16514-0397*

March 24, 2009

Dear Pastors,

Many blessings in this season of Lent! I am writing to you today regarding a matter of importance in relation to the Protection of Children policy.

In our 2007 and 2008 audits, the auditors suggested that the diocese conduct parish audits to determine compliance with the mandates set forth in our diocesan *Policy for the Protection of Children*. At this time, we are choosing to conduct self audits in preparation for our on-site visit by the auditors.

With this notice you will find the audit instrument to be used to conduct your self audit. You will find instructions for completion of the form following this notice.

This self audit is to be completed by May 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions about any of the compliance issues, please contact Mrs. Streett at 814-824-1222 or [kstreett@eriercd.org](mailto:kstreett@eriercd.org).

I am asking for your transparency regarding these questions on the self audit; our diocesan Office for Protection of Children and Youth will be happy to assist you with any issues of non-compliance. After the completion of the self audits, Msgr. Smith and Mrs. Streett will be making some on-site parish visits in preparation for our diocesan audit. You will be contacted at a later date about this.

I am confident that all of our parishes will be in compliance at this writing or will take the necessary steps to assure compliance as the self audit is conducted. As always, I am grateful to you and your staffs for your efforts to keep our children and youth safe and secure.

Please be aware that this self audit is a different process and form than the *Annual Parish Report for Child Protection Compliance*, which will be forwarded to you soon.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, STD, SSL  
Bishop of Erie

*Signature is on file at the Chancery*