



DECREE

DONALD EDWARD DEGROOD
By the Grace of God and Favor of the Apostolic See
BISHOP OF SIOUX FALLS

To all the Clergy, Consecrated, and Laity Serving in Church Ministries within the Diocese of Sioux Falls:

In an effort to protect all who participate in the sacramental and teaching ministries of the Church (cc. 207-208), upon my installation as the 9th Bishop of Sioux Falls (c. 382) I directed a comprehensive review of existing policies of the Diocese of Sioux Falls pertaining to safe environments and the Church's response to evidences of abuse by a minister (cc. 381, §1; 383, §1; 391, §1). This review included an examination of best practices established in sister dioceses across the country and the professional expertise which informed those practices. Input from the audit firm reviewing the Diocese's compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young Persons*, from the Diocesan Priest Council (cc. 384; 495, §1), and from Clergy Review Board was essential to the analysis and drafting processes which became a part of the review I directed. The review process also included making account of all revisions to Book VI: Penal Sanctions in the Church of the Code of Canon Law which were decreed into effect by the Holy Father Pope Francis on December 8, 2021 and reflecting these in policy changes.

Mindful that the collective efforts that have gone into this review has led to significant revisions and amendments to existing policies which have been in effect for the Diocese of Sioux Falls since its first version of a Sexual Misconduct Policy was adopted in 1987, I hereby

abrogate all existing versions of Diocesan Safe Environment Policy and its accompanying Sexual Misconduct Policy.

Now therefore, in accord with canons 8 §2, 29, and 391 §1, I hereby decree and promulgate as particular law for the Diocese of Sioux Falls

the Compendium of Safe Environment Policies including the following chapters

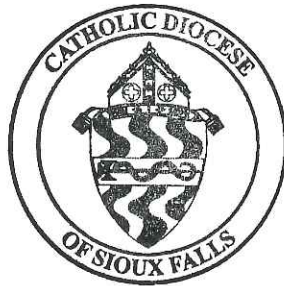
- 0.0 – *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young Persons*
- 1.0 – Codes of Conduct
- 2.0 – Our Promise to Protect: Safe Environments
- 3.0 – Sexual Misconduct by Church Ministers: Terms and Response
- 4.0 – Our Pledge to Heal: Victims Assistance

and mandate the full compliance of all applicable ministers as directed in the particular and relevant portions of this comprehensive policy.

Decreed at the Chancery
On this Wednesday, the 2nd day of March
Ash Wednesday
Two-Thousand and Twenty-Two
in the Year of the Lord.

+ Donald E. DeGrood

Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood
Bishop of Sioux Falls



Matthew K. Althoff

Mr. Matthew K. Althoff
Chancellor