



OFFICE OF EDUCATION

DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN
1425 Mountain Drive North
Bethlehem, PA 18015-4722

Telephone (610) 866-0581
FAX (610) 867-8702

August 14, 2018

Dear Parents,

Recently, the statewide Grand Jury Report on clergy sexual abuse in Pennsylvania was issued, and it includes incidents of past abuse in the Diocese of Allentown.

Most of the incidents in the Grand Jury Report date back decades. The perpetrators are either no longer in active ministry or are deceased. These were terrible and sinful events. They were devastating and tragic for the victims and survivors, and they continue to cause pain and anger to this very day.

As you may know, the Diocese of Allentown has taken strong and decisive action since 2002 to address this issue. Our goal is to prevent abuse from ever happening again. Our first priority is keeping our children safe. This includes mandatory training for teachers and your children in recognizing and preventing abuse, as well as the designation of Safe Environment Coordinators at every school and parish in our Diocese.

The Diocese prepared a variety of communications related to the Report. These communications are contained on a special website, which can be accessed from the Diocese home page at www.allentowndiocese.org. The website contains a brief video message from Bishop Schlert, a copy of a letter from the Bishop read at all Masses, a list of credibly accused priests of our Diocese, as well as other information.

Let me express my gratitude for your commitment to the religious education of your child. We are grateful for the opportunity to journey with your child as they grow in a deeper relationship with Christ and a greater understanding of the gift of our Catholic faith.

We look forward to welcoming each of you to our upcoming religious education year to begin after the summer break. Our catechists are dedicated to helping your child grow in our Catholic faith and their awareness and understanding of God's loving presence in their lives in a safe environment. Please be assured that we will continue to take very seriously the safety of the children entrusted to our care.

Sincerely,

Alexandria M. Cirko
Assistant Superintendent, Religious Education