



Office of the Bishop

# Diocese of El Paso

Catholic Pastoral Center

To: Presbyterate  
CC: The Diocesan Safe Environment Office  
From: The Office of the Bishop  
Date: October 1, 2021  
Subject: Release of the Protecting God's Children® Program 4.0

Dear Brother Priests,

The Diocese of El Paso has sought to faithfully implement the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People since its approval in 2002. Our goal is to make our diocese a model that sets the bar for others. The Charter continues to guide and assist us in maintaining a safe environment for young people as they participate in our parishes, school, and diocesan programs and activities.

Currently, the Diocese of El Paso uses the VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children version 3.0 as its adult safe environment training. VIRTUS has updated its training in the 4.0 version by streamlining its messaging, adding more than 250 new video clips and visuals, and has designed it to be more trauma informed, making it easier for victim/survivors to watch and engage in discussion.

By this letter, I hereby affirm the VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children version 4.0 for use as our diocesan mandated training for adults. More information may be found on our diocesan website [www.elpasodiocese.org](http://www.elpasodiocese.org).

May Our Lord Jesus continue to watch over and guide in our efforts to bring the youth of our diocese ever closer to Him. Through the intercession of Mary our Mother and Saint Joseph, may Our Lord Jesus grant you abundant spiritual blessings in your ministry.

Bishop Mark Seitz  
Bishop of Diocese of El Paso