

Code of Ethics and Integrity for Conduct of Church Personnel in the Diocese of Tyler

As part of our witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it is imperative that all Church personnel in the Diocese consistently act with ethics and integrity. People of all ages deserve to be respected and protected in their relationships with Church personnel. Defining healthy and safe relationships is not meant, in any way, to undermine the strength and importance of appropriate personal contact or the ministerial role. Rather, it is to assist all who fulfill the many roles that create the living Church to demonstrate their love and compassion for children and adults through sincere and genuine relationships.

All Church personnel are asked to carefully consider each statement in this Code of Ethics and Integrity and to sign their name to demonstrate their commitment to observing this Code in their life and ministry in the Diocese of Tyler.

- I. Church personnel will exhibit the highest Christian ethical standards and personal integrity.
- II. Church personnel will conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the discipline and teachings of the Catholic Church.
- III. Church personnel will foster a professional work environment that is free from physical, psychological, written, or verbal intimidation or harassment.
- IV. Church personnel will act professionally in all counseling, advising, or spiritual direction relationships protecting the well being of the other party at all times.
- V. Church personnel will not physically, sexually or emotionally abuse or neglect a minor or an adult.
- VI. Church personnel will share concerns about suspicious or inappropriate behavior with their pastor, their principal, the Promoter of Justice, or the Bishop.
- VII. Church personnel will report any suspected abuse or neglect of minors or the elderly to: **Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (1-800-252-5400) or www.txabusehotline.org. In case of an EMERGENCY, call 911.**
- VIII. Church personnel will accept their personal responsibility to protect minors and adults from all forms of abuse.
- IX. Church personnel will guide their behaviors by this Code, civil and canon law, policies of the Diocese of Tyler, particularly the diocesan guidelines for Ethics and Integrity in Ministry. (Guidelines can be found at: www.dioceseoftyler.org/ethics.)

I have read, understand, and commit myself to living and ministering according to this Code.

_____ Name _____ Parish, School, Agency

_____ Date (keep one signed copy, return other to the Diocese)

Concerns about violations of this Code can be reported to;

Promoter of Justice 903 266-2159.

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