



DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

POST OFFICE BOX 2030
WILMINGTON, DE 19899-2030
(302) 573-3100

May, 2003

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

My Dear People:

As you are aware, the Bishops of our country have been mandated to implement the directives set forth in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the *Essential Norms* which are a part of that document. Last summer I called for the creation of three Task Forces to develop policies and procedures for implementing the Charter's specific mandates and requirements in our Diocese. The work of the Task Forces is now completed and with this letter I announce the implementation of the program "For the Sake of God's Children" within the Diocese.


This program has been developed specifically for the Diocese of Wilmington and contains three important elements: 1) the policies and procedures for background checks for church personnel who work with children, 2) the professional standards which identify those attitudes and actions that guide our service to others, and 3) guidelines for establishing and maintaining safe environments in our parishes, schools, and other institutions.

To minister in the name of Jesus Christ is a great privilege and a tremendous responsibility. As ministers of the Lord we must act in ways that are in conformity with the attitudes and actions He lived and taught. To accomplish this faithfully requires our personal prayerful reflection and an occasional personal inventory. Our diocesan program, "For the Sake of God's Children," sets before us those behaviors, attitudes, and actions which exemplify what is required of us in dealing with every person, and especially with the young.

It is my desire that everyone in ministry be committed to abide by the policies and procedures set forth in this program. In recent weeks we have begun a process to educate priests, deacons, religious, lay employees, and church volunteers about our diocesan program "For the Sake of God's Children." In the coming months every parish, school, and church institution will implement these policies.

I wish to extend special thanks to the members of the Task Forces whose commitment and dedication over these months have provided us with such a remarkable program for our diocesan church. We are indeed grateful.

Wishing you every blessing and grateful for your fidelity and concern for our diocesan church and our children, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael A. Saltarelli
Bishop of Wilmington