



## DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

September 13, 2018

To the Members of the Diocesan Review Board:

Thank you for your recent audit of the Office for Ministerial Conduct and your helpful recommendations. I write to update you on the progress that this office has made in addressing the recommendations in the 2018 Audit Report.

1. The Board recognized that some parishes experience safe environment compliance challenges working with the Scout troops they sponsor because the Scouting volunteers are slow to comply with the diocesan requirements for training and screening. The Board made two recommendations in respect to these challenges:
  - a. The Board recommended that Bishop's Delegate for Safe Environment Programs meet with a representative of the Daniel Webster Scout Council in order to devise a plan for ensuring that Scout volunteers understand the importance of complying with diocesan screening and training requirements;
  - b. The Board recommended that, if an individual troop is not cooperative, the sponsoring parish should refuse to charter them.

Progress to date: On August 16, 2018, Mark Collopy (a member of the Diocesan Review Board who is also a Chartered Organization Representative for his local Boy Scout troops) and I met with the following representatives of the Daniel Webster Boy Scout Council: Jay Garee, CEO; Andrew Murphy, Senior District Executive and Director of Support Services; and John Arico, Vice President of Leader Development. The purpose of our meeting was to discuss how the Diocese and the Daniel Webster Council can work together cooperatively and ensure that all Scout volunteers who work with minors in parish-sponsored troops comply with diocesan requirements in a timely manner. The Daniel Webster representatives assured me that they want to work with us to enforce diocesan requirements. As a result of this meeting, an action plan was devised. This plan includes the following steps:

- a. A handout outlining the diocesan requirements will be included in Scouting 'kits' that are distributed to all Scout volunteers and parents. I have already provided the handout and it is already being distributed;
- b. Mr. Garee and I will send a joint letter to all Chartered Organization Representatives and other key Scouting leaders reminding them of the additional requirements for diocesan-sponsored troop volunteers. Mr. Garee and his associates are in the process of drafting a letter which they will then send to me for final edits;
- c. Each December, as Charters are being finalized, Mr. Garee's office will provide the diocesan Safe Environment Office with a list of all parish-

sponsored troops along with the names of all associated volunteers. Charters should not be signed by pastors until this office confirms that all of the volunteers are in compliance with diocesan requirements.

2. The Board recommended that the staff of the diocesan Safe Environment Office should continue to work closely with any parish or school that receives a less than satisfactory rating, and priority should be given to these parishes/schools in an effort to improve their implementation of the Policy.

Progress to date: It is the goal of the Office for Ministerial Conduct for all entities to have a safe environment rating of 'Satisfactory' or better. A protocol for addressing entities with subpar ratings was put in place several years ago. We will continue to follow this protocol and will put renewed emphasis on repeatedly following up with any entity that has a rating of 'Needs Improvement' or 'Unsatisfactory' until the rating has improved.

Currently, two parishes are rated Unsatisfactory while three parishes (two of which are twinned) and one school are rated Needs Improvement. All of these entities will receive visits this fall. Most of these visits are already scheduled. We will continue to make regular visits to these locations until their performance is satisfactory.

Again, thank you for the time you devoted to conducting the audit and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Mary Ellen D'Intino  
Bishop's Delegate for Ministerial Conduct and  
Safe Environment