



Catholic Diocese of Victoria  
*Office of the Bishop*

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June 18, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As part of our deep commitment to ensure the safety of children, youth, and vulnerable adults entrusted to our care, the Diocese has contracted Praesidium Inc. to provide abuse prevention training through an online program entitled “**Armatus: Learn To Protect**”. All members of the clergy, religious, employees and volunteers actively working within the Diocese will now be required to complete the on-line training program to ensure the safety of one and all.

We are currently in the process of training the Parish Administrative Support Staff and Parish Responsible Ministry Coordinators. The training is going very well and there has been much positive feedback as we learn about the nature of abuse, recognize the signs of abuse, how to report abuse, and how to protect and keep everyone safe. Those in leadership are also learning how to assist the many committed volunteers in each parish to complete their training.

Thank you for your valuable service to your ministry and your parish community. Together, as People of God, we contribute to the building of the kingdom. As we move forward with this next phase of training, we hope to have all volunteers complete their “**Armatus: Learn To Protect**” training **by October 31, 2019**. The program requires completion of between 2 and 6 on-line courses, depending upon your role and ministry within the Church. Each course focuses on a different topic related to abuse and prevention. Completion time is approximately 35-40 minutes per course. Certificates are issued upon the successful completion of each course.

We are committed to provide all the supportive resources that we can to ensure that each and every volunteer completes their training by the deadline. If you have any questions or require special support with the training program, please contact your Parish Responsible Ministry Coordinator or Parish Support Staff. You may also contact our Diocesan Responsible Ministry & Safe Environment Coordinator, Greg Beattie, at 250-479-1331 ext. 244, or Louis Melendez at 250-479-1331 ext. 237 during business hours, or via email at [rmse@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:rmse@rcdvictoria.org). Greg Beattie may also be reached via cell after hours at 250-532-1611.

Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents in service to your parish community. Please know that your commitment to this most important initiative is essential to the mission entrusted to us, to serve as witnesses of Christ’s healing and transformation in the world.

In Communion,

Most Reverend Gary Gordon  
Bishop of Victoria

