



DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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August 21, 2025

To the people of the Diocese of Alexandria:

With the promulgation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* in 2002, the Bishops of the Church and all who assist us in pastoral ministry have committed ourselves to create and maintain a culture of safety for our children and young people. I want to thank you for your continued support of the Diocese of Alexandria's Safe Environment Program and for continuing to provide a safe environment for our children and vulnerable adults. Mrs. Kecia Coco coordinates these efforts for our diocese ([kcoco@diocesealex.org](mailto:kcoco@diocesealex.org)).

We, as Roman Catholic disciples of the Lord Jesus, are called to model relationships demonstrating respect in all we do. "Human virtues acquired by education, by deliberate acts and by perseverance ever-renewed in repeated efforts are purified and elevated by divine grace." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1810).

As Bishop of Alexandria, I hereby approve of and promulgate the following safe environment programs for use in this diocese:

- VIRTUS *Protecting God's Children for Adults* program for our clergy, religious, employees and volunteers who work with children.
- VIRTUS *Protecting God's Children – Empowering God's Children* program for use in our parish religious education programs and in our Catholic school religion classes.

The Diocese of Alexandria has a zero tolerance for abuse. Let us renew our commitment to protect minors entrusted to our care from all forms of abuse and neglect; and, if you are aware of an issue that troubles you regarding a child or young adult at any of our parish, mission or school functions, please contact your local law enforcement and/or the **Louisiana Child Abuse Hotline** at 1-855-452-5437 immediately. This is the first step if you have a concern for the safety of a child or young person. Additionally, please know that the Diocese of Alexandria has a Victims Assistance Coordinator that should be contacted (Dr. Lee Kneipp, Clinical Psychologist, 318-542-9805).

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I want to thank you for supporting these efforts. In all we do, let us seek the Kingdom and all righteousness, loving one another and respecting the dignity of each human life, from the moment of conception through the last breath of natural life.

Live Jesus in our hearts,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Marshall, Jr.", with a cross symbol at the beginning.

Most Reverend Robert W. Marshall, Jr.  
Bishop of Alexandria