



THE MOST REVEREND
GREGORY J. HARTMAYER, OFM CONV.

November 3, 2020

Peace and all good things!

The Catholic Church is committed to keeping safe every child in its care whether that is in a parish, a school or at a service center. The sin of sexual abuse has destroyed lives and families and left a lasting mark on our communities. We must actively work to prevent abuse from ever happening again. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in 2002. As Archbishop of Atlanta, I renew my continued support for this document and its policies.

In the Archdiocese of Atlanta, this effort is a collaboration between pastors, catechists, lay employees, volunteers, parents and even the children themselves. We equip our communities with the tools they need to spot potential abuse before it happens. We support our mandated reporters and we respond quickly and appropriately to all such reports. Our schools and parishes educate parents, children and young people about signs of grooming and abuse and invite anyone who has suffered to come forward to seek justice and healing.

The Archdiocese of Atlanta uses VIRTUS – a company trusted by more than half of the dioceses in the United States. Their program, Protecting God’s Children, is reviewed and updated regularly. It reflects the latest research and prevention methods. VIRTUS includes resources for employees and volunteers.

Our Safe Environment program, created in accordance with the Charter, is audited and reviewed annually. Our Victims Assistance Program works with civil authorities and law enforcement to respond to cases reported to us. We must remain vigilant and compassionate.

I affirm my support for these programs and ask you to join me in fulfilling our Promise to Protect and Pledge to Heal.

Yours in Christ,

+ *Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv.*

Most Rev. Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv.
Archbishop of Atlanta

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