



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MEMPHIS
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GENERAL DECREE

ADOPTING VIRTUS AS THE DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

The Church recognizes the grave responsibility entrusted to her for the protection and dignity of children and young people and acknowledges her obligation to provide a safe environment in all ecclesial settings.

The Church also recognizes the authority and provisions of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, promulgated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002 and subsequently revised, most recently in June 2026. The Charter sets forth measures to protect children and young people, including the establishment of safe environments, education and training, appropriate responses to allegations of abuse, cooperation with civil authorities, and mechanisms for accountability.

The Diocese of Memphis in Tennessee hereby adopts VIRTUS®, Protecting God's Children™, as the Diocese's designated Safe Environment training and compliance program. VIRTUS® shall constitute the principal diocesan system through which required Safe Environment training, education, and related compliance requirements are administered, subject to the policies, procedures, and directives promulgated by the Diocese.

Given at the Chancery in Memphis, under my sign and seal and the countersignature of my Vice-Chancellor, on the 22nd day of October 2026.

+ *David P. Talley*

Most Reverend David P. Talley, M.S.W., J.C.D.
Bishop of Memphis

Casey C. Weber
Rev. Casey C. Weber, J.C.L.
Vice Chancellor

