

May 6, 2022

Most Reverend John Stowe
Bishop of Lexington
1310 West Main Street
Lexington, KY 40508

Dear Bishop Stowe:

In accordance with our recent audit of the Diocese of Lexington, for the period of July 1, 2019 to March 31, 2022, the following topics are being brought to your attention. These topics do not affect your compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*; they are simply suggestions for your consideration.

Articles 2 & 6:

Topic: The Diocesan Code of Conduct and the Policies and Procedures for Creating a Safe Environment for Minors and Vulnerable Adults do not include specific language regarding the acquisition, possession, and distribution of child pornography.

Suggestion: We suggest that the Diocese, with the assistance of the Review Board, consider reviewing and updating both the Code of Conduct and the Policy to include the aforementioned language.

Article 12:

Topic: There was not a current promulgation letter available to be reviewed as part of our auditing procedures that approves the most recent safe environment programs being utilized by the Diocese.

We noted that Circle of Grace is the program primarily utilized for youth safe environment training. There are additional resources available to satisfy the youth safe environment training requirement in the Diocese, including public school training. These additional programs may provide valuable lessons for children, however, also creates variability in content which may or may not be in accord with Catholic moral principles.

Suggestion: We suggest that the Bishop issue a promulgation letter to formally approve the safe environment curriculums for both adults and children to clearly indicate which programs are in accord with Catholic moral principles.

Article 12 & 13:

Topic: Parish and school audits have been suspended due to COVID disruption and personnel changes.

Suggestion: We suggest that the Diocese consider the feasibility of resuming visits to the parish and school locations in order to review documentation and assess compliance with safe environment program requirements.

By signing below, you attest that you have read and received our suggestions from the Charter audit process.

Most Reverend John Stowe
Bishop of Lexington

Thank you for the efforts that you are taking to protect the children and young people in the Diocese of Lexington. Please return a signed copy via email to USCCBCharterAudits@StoneBridgeBP.com at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

StoneBridge Business Partners

StoneBridge Business Partners
Rochester, New York

cc: Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection
Karen Abbey, Chancellor, Diocese of Lexington