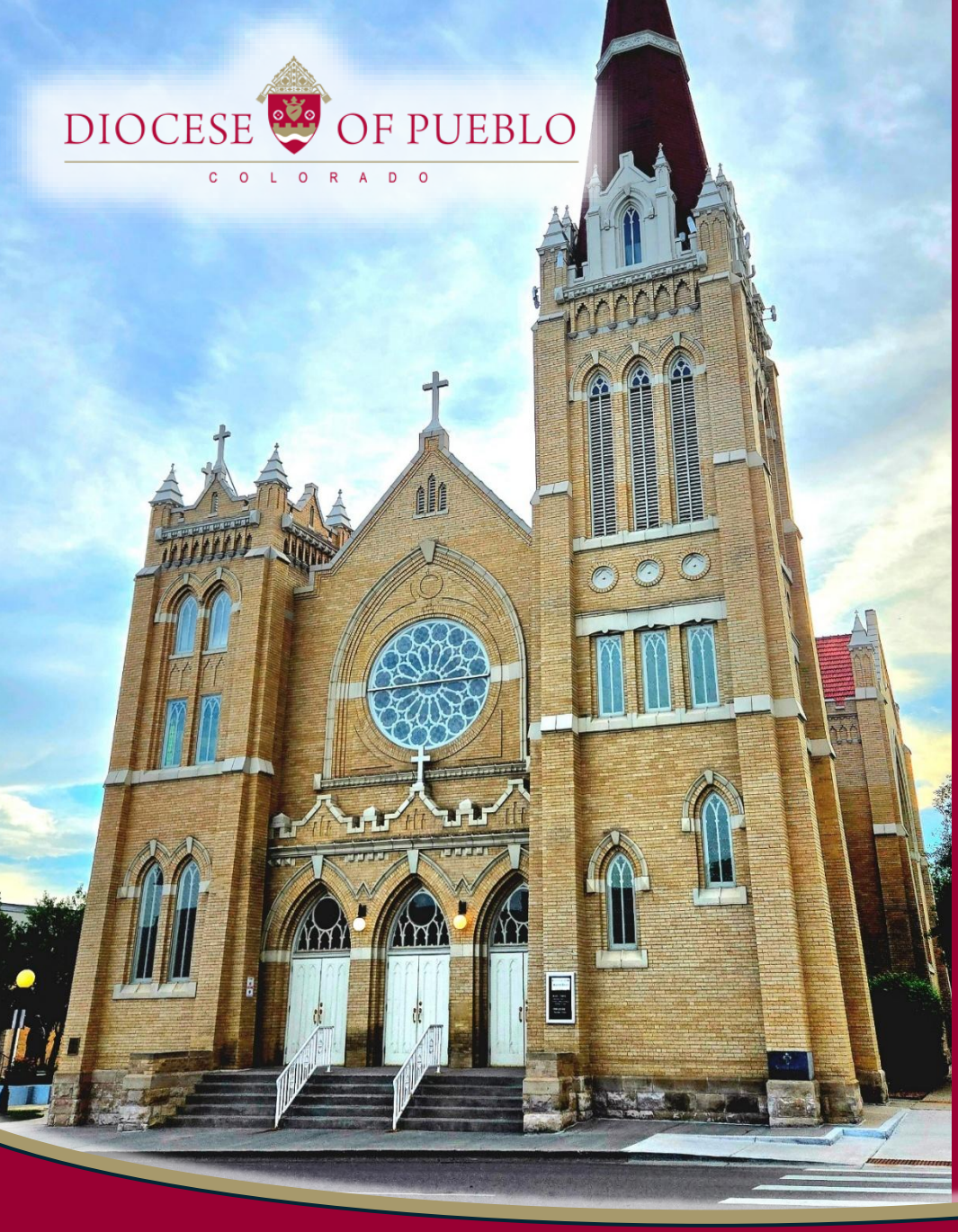
DIOCESE OF PUEBLO
COLORADO




Safe Environment Leadership Summit


Holy Family Catholic School, Grand Junction


Alamosa Deanery Visit


IHM/John Paul II, Pagosa Springs

Safe Environment Office

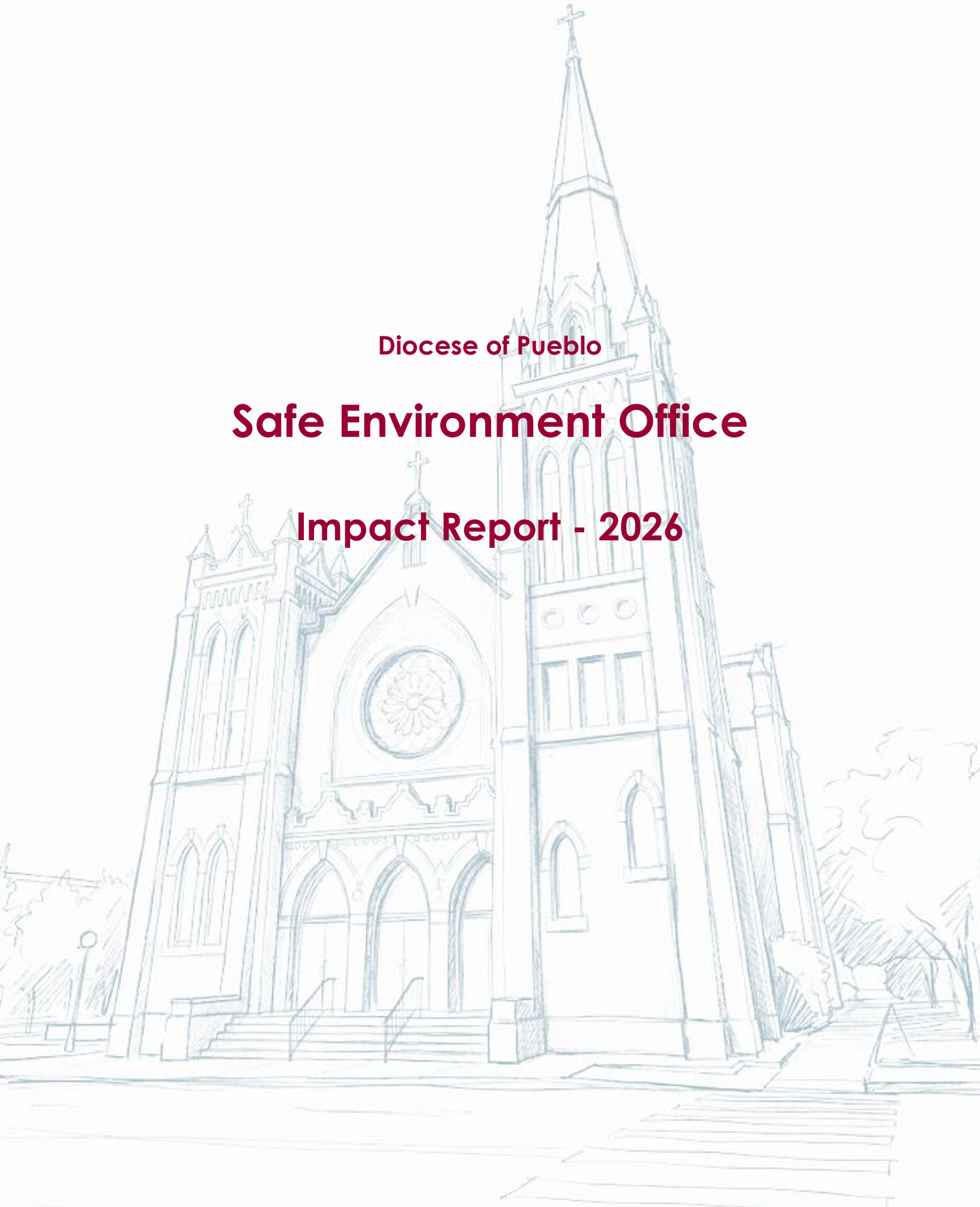
Impact Report

-2026-

Diocese of Pueblo

Safe Environment Office

Impact Report - 2026



From the Safe Environment Coordinator…



With another year of Safe Environment Ministry in the books, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Annual Safe Environment Office Impact Report.

This year has been defined by incredible growth in Safe Environment Ministry. New professional development initiatives, leadership programs, all-new starting checklists, stronger connections across our diocese, and the continued partnership of the faithful in this work – the ministry of Safe Environment continues to develop and evolve as we work to build trust in our parishes, and protection for the faithful. This report is a testament to that work, and a celebration of what we have accomplished together.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of each of you to this ministry. Safe Environment does not happen in a vacuum; it is the result of the dedication, commitment, and love expressed by each of you through your own ministries to support the mission of Christ. It is nurtured and strengthened by each interaction we have with the faithful. As we continue to move forward, your work and dedication will continue to propel Safe Environment Ministry to new heights.

Thank you for your partnership and the ministries you perform.

Brian Nufer
Safe Environment Coordinator
Diocese of Pueblo

From the Chancellor…



The bishop relies on the work of the Safe Environment Office and our coworkers across the diocese. The clergy, catechists, volunteers and the Christian faithful are an extension of the bishop's mission to protect the children, young people and vulnerable adults of the diocese. These partners play a vital role in maintaining a safe, nurturing, and trustworthy environment.

Over the past few years, we have worked together making a cultural shift from the administrative compliance of background checks and audit paperwork, to building relationships and a community across our diocese. Together we have built a team across 48,000 miles of our diocese committed to collaboration and teamwork. This has resulted in collective input from diverse perspectives only strengthening the Safe Environment program.

The Safe Environment Office continues to provide ongoing training opportunities embraced by those working with our youth such as the Toolbox Training Series and Leadership Summit, as well as educational content delivered through the monthly Safe Environment e-newsletter.

Thank you for your commitment and care in 2026. We are looking forward to what we will achieve together as we move forward into 2027.

Joe'l DeYoung
Chancellor
Diocese of Pueblo

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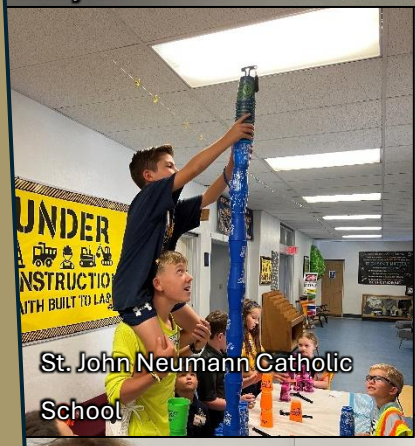
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DIOCESE OF PUEBLO COLORADO
Safe Environment Office


2026 Leadership Summit



Our Lady of Guadalupe, Conejos


St. John Neumann Catholic School


2026 Leadership Summit


St. Francis Xavier, Pueblo

Welcome!



Our Diocese *At a Glance:*

97
Parishes & Missions

2
Catholic Schools

4
Charitable Organizations

~50,000
Square Miles comprise the Diocese of Pueblo

900+
Volunteer personnel

3000+
Children in Religious Education and Formation Programs

The Safe Environment Office is honored to serve our diocese and support the creation of a Safe Environment for all the faithful!

Welcome to the Safe Environment Office!

Our Mission:

To provide a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable individuals who worship, study and participate in activities in the diocese so that the Catholic faith may spread fruitfully in an environment of trust.

Our Vision:

To make Safe Environment **Simple, Inspirational, and Effective**.

Our Work:

- ✓ Supporting our parishes, missions, schools, and entities with the implementation of the diocesan Safe Environment Program.
- ✓ Overseeing our background check and safe environment training systems.
- ✓ Working with catechists and religious educators to implement youth Safe Environment training.
- ✓ Completing the Annual USCCB Safe Environment Audit.
- ✓ Supporting youth groups and programming.
- ✓ Managing clergy Safe Environment information.
- ✓ Assisting with volunteer personnel management.
- ✓ Answering questions and providing support.

We are here to support you!

Contact us:

Phone: 719-544-9861 ext. 1111
Email: bnufer@dioceseofpueblo.org

Building Community

Enhancing Office Communications

The Safe Environment Office continued its work to pioneer effective and engaging communication with our diocesan partners. To that end, the office unveiled an all-new Safe Environment Newsletter format containing interactive links to highlight our parishes and schools, comprehensive calendar information, upcoming events, FAQs, and more. These newsletters remain critical in communicating resources, information, and inspiration to the diocese, and remain the primary source of office information and updates.

The Safe Environment Office continues to focus newsletter communications on bringing faith and inspiration into our Safe Environment processes. All catechists, priests, and site administrators are invited to add their contact information to the Safe Environment mailing list by emailing the Safe Environment Department at: **bnufer@dioceseofpueblo.org**.


DIOCESE OF PUEBLO
COLORADO

THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT OFFICE E-NEWSLETTER

"Making Safe Environment Simple, Inspirational, and Effective."

Safe Environment Office Newsletter

October 2026 – The Month of the Rosary

A Message from the Safe Environment Coordinator:

We're making Safe Environment Simple, Inspirational and Effective.

Read the Message Here

What's Happening in the Ministry of Safe Environment?

See What's Happening

Creating the CMG Connect Training/Cleanup Committee

In September, the Safe Environment Office stablished a committee of catechists, office staff, and clergy from all 5 deaneries to provide recommendations in developing resources that help train and support new administrators in using, and maintaining the CMG Connect system. This committee continues to help the Safe Environment Office respond to real needs in the diocese and build up knowledge regarding the CMG Connect platform and prepare upcoming CMG Connect training initiatives.

2026 By the Numbers

800+ Phone Calls Made or Received.

7,000+ Emails Processed.

4 Training Presentations Offered to the Diocese.

Forming Our Partners for Success

We are Forming our Diocese for Safe Environment Excellence.

The Safe Environment Office conducted an unprecedented 4 professional development presentations to the diocese designed to support the administration, and effectiveness of our Safe Environment program. Participation in these presentations continues to be strong and are supporting the shared ministry of Safe Environment for our diocese. These opportunities for professional development are key to creating a culture of safety for the faithful.

Toolbox Presentations:

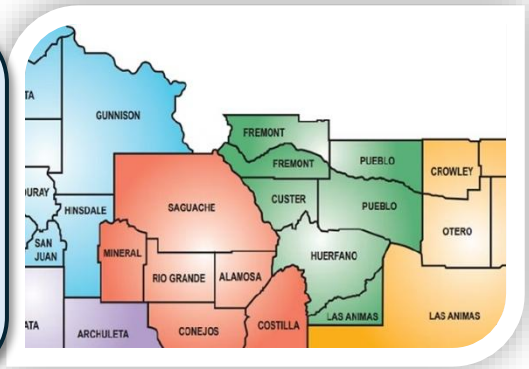
The Stewardship of Safe Environment was presented in March of 2026 in partnership with the Catholic Foundation and detailed how we can apply the Safe Environment Program and the message of trust, dignity, and protection, to support the stewardship of all the many gifts, including the people we serve, to return them to the Lord with an increase.

Foundations of Faith: Safe Environment 101 was offered in November of 2026 and provided an overview of the Diocesan Safe Environment Program and provided resources and information to support the effective use and implementation of the *Circle of Grace* youth safe environment program.



Deanery Meeting Presentation:

In February, the Safe Environment Office joined the Vicar for Clergy Office, The Alliance to Combat Human Trafficking in Pueblo, and the Hispanic Affairs Project in Montrose to provide a presentation to our priests about human trafficking, means of recognizing and reporting trafficking in ministry, and the revision of the Diocesan Sexual Misconduct Policy in a presentation titled, ***Becoming Instruments of Protection.***



2026 Audit Training:

As it does each year, the Safe Environment Office was pleased to present its annual **USCCB Safe Environment Audit Training** to the clergy and office staff at our parishes and schools across the diocese. This training is designed specifically to support each location in accessing and reporting safe environment audit data to ensure compliance with the USCCB's *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.*



Cultivating Leaders at the Leadership Summit


Attendees at the 2026 Safe Environment Leadership Summit

Inspiring the Current and Future Leaders of Safe Environment.

In May, the Safe Environment Office presented the first of its kind, ***Safe Environment Leadership Summit***, a professional development opportunity designed to educate, inspire, and empower individuals from across our diocese to act as transformational leaders in the Ministry of Safe Environment.

During the Summit, participants reviewed case studies, engaged in fun activities, and heard from experts in the areas of Canon law, Human Trafficking, Child and Youth Protection, and more. Bishop Berg graciously joined the group to share his perspective on the ministry of Safe Environment and the cultivation of strong leaders in this arena. It is activities like these which are helping individuals build knowledge and skills in Safe Environment Leadership.

In total, over 30 individuals from 4 deaneries of the diocese participated. This participation was made possible in part due to of a generous grant provided by the Catholic Foundation to help cover hotel expenses. We are grateful for the Foundation's support!

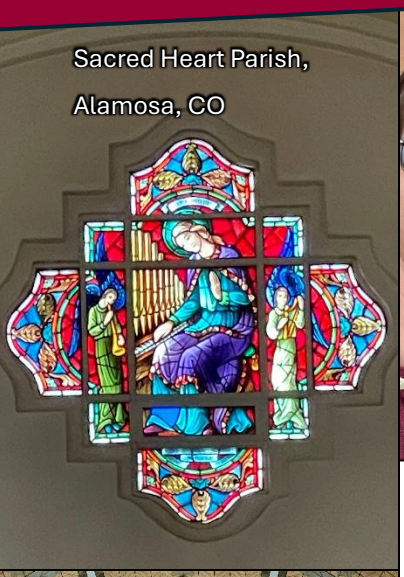
See you at next year's summit!


Hearing from our Leader


Enjoying the break and connecting as a team.


Participants engage in fun activities.

Connecting in the Alamosa Deanery


Sacred Heart Parish, Alamosa, CO


The CPC team at Holy Family Mission in Ft. Garland, CO


San Antonio de Padua, San Antonio, CO

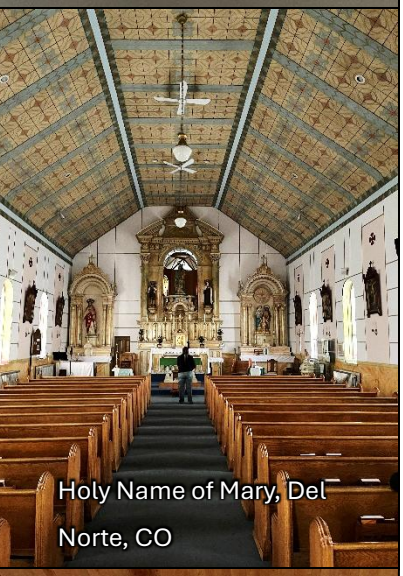
We are connecting across the diocese to better support you.

In September, the Diocesan Safe Environment Office, along with our Chancellor's Office, HR, Payroll, and Archives, embarked on a three-day visit to the Alamosa Deanery to connect with you.

In total, the trip encompassed:

- Over 590 miles.
- 29 individual church visits.
- 7 visits with office managers.
- 5 visits with priests.

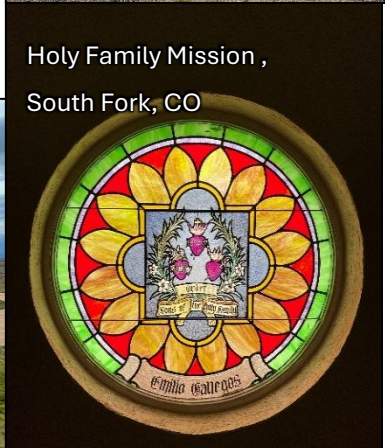
The trip culminated in a **Safe Environment Networking event** at Sacred Heart Parish in Alamosa to further unite together in ministry. We are remains grateful for the immense hospitality they received in the deanery!


Holy Name of Mary, Del Norte, CO


St. Francis of Assisi, San Francisco, CO


Immaculate Conception Mission, Chama, CO


The San Juan Catholic Spiritual Center, La Garita, CO.


Holy Family Mission , South Fork, CO



Supporting our Future Deacons

Safe Environment Insight: A Trust Founded Upon Love

In its presentation to our deacon candidates, the Safe Environment Office offered the insight that the development of trust is only effective if rooted in love.

The trust we build through our Safe Environment Program is not a corporate response to a public relations issue; it is not the establishment of trust to convince another to buy something.

Instead, the trust we build through the Safe Environment Program is designed to allow us to say to the people of God with love: "This Church will do whatever it takes to earn your trust, to invite you into her midst and to be saved by the power of Christ." ~ Brian Nufer



Deacons serve an important role in Safe Environment and the pastoral care of the faithful.

During the session, deacon candidates learned about, and discussed, the bishop's promise to protect and pledge to heal, their own role in the protection of all God's people, and proper reporting procedures should they encounter situations of abuse or neglect in ministry.

We are honored to play a small role in the formation of our deacons and are excited for the ministry they will perform in the future.



Diocesan Deacon Formation Class

Supporting Your Ministry



2026 saw a multitude of new resources and information.

The Safe Environment Office is committed to the development of great resources and tools that support you in participating in this beautiful ministry.

In 2026, the office unveiled several new resources to continue working towards our vision of making Safe Environment simple, inspirational, and effective.

The Youth Ministry Safety Checklist:

Designed to support youth ministers to develop, and execute safe activities for youth which mitigates risk, and supports fun, engaging ministry.

Safe Environment Ministry Checklist:

New to Safe Environment Ministry? This checklist walks you through everything you need to do to get started. Whether you are a new priest, catechist, or office manager, we have resources to help.

Your Guideline Updates:

In response to updated state mandatory reporting laws, the Safe Environment Office updated its *Guidelines for Implementing your Safe Environment Program*. These guidelines support you in protecting the faithful.

Find these and other resources on our website:

www.diopueblo.org/safe-environment

Supporting Compliance

Annual USCCB Safe Environment Audit

Each Year, all entities in the Diocese of Pueblo complete the Annual USCCB Safe Environment Audit, an important step in creating accountability for the Church through compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

By the Numbers:

100%

Of all locations participated in the 2026 audit.

Nearly 500 Employees, 900 Volunteers and 100 Clergy

Have participated in the Diocesan Safe Environment Program in the 2026 audit year.

3000+

Children and youth trained through the *Circle of Grace* curriculum in 2026.

We appreciate your dedication in completing the audit for the 2025-2026 audit year. This audit helps our Church establish accountability and transparency in our efforts to protect the faithful for abuse, neglect, and harm.



Partnering with You

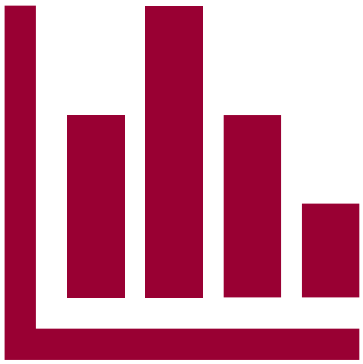
With your help, we are identifying emerging Safe Environment needs across the Diocese.

The Safe Environment Office conducted a diocese-wide survey to learn more about our shared needs across the diocese and identify how we can continue to provide support and resources that serve you.

Key Findings:

- A desire for Youth Ministry and Volunteer Guidelines.
- A request for more Catechist Networking Events
- Catechists are using the *Circle of Grace* program in many ways throughout the year.
- Participants enjoy live, quarterly, in-person training.
- Strong Interest in connecting stewardship and relationship through the Safe Environment Program.

With this invaluable data, we are continuing to align our strategy to support your needs.



Shaping the Future of Safe Environment

We are building for the future of our ministry.

We are continuing our efforts to develop strategic plans and goals which will help support the implementation and understanding of our Safe Environment Program. With your support and ideas, we are pioneering the future of this ministry.

Key Objectives:

- **Strengthen knowledge and support regarding online Safe Evironment tools, portals and systems.**
- **Expand and enrich Safe Environment department services that support parishes, missions, schools and entities.**
- **Effectively address the need for risk control support for youth programs to protect the faithful.**
- **Continue to build and develop opportunites for learning and connection within Safe Environment Ministry**



Our Lady of Guadalupe/St. Patrick, La Junta, CO


Confirmation at IHM/John Paul II, Pagosa Springs


St. Columba Catholic School I, Durango, CO

Thank you for your partnership in this ministry!

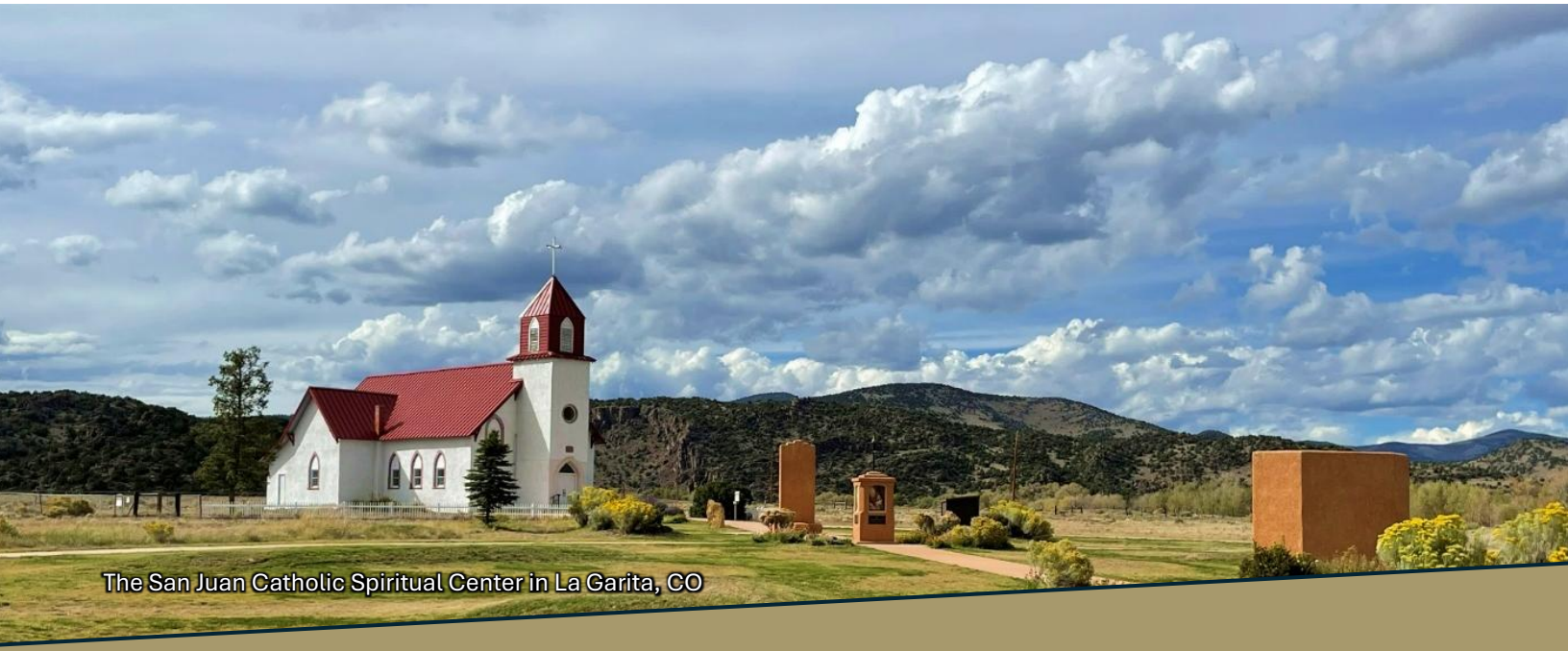
Prayer for a Safe Environment:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of all the people, especially the children, young people, and vulnerable individuals who worship, study, and participate in activities in the Diocese of Pueblo. We ask that the light of Your loving face shine always upon them. In the embrace of Your caring arms, protect them and keep them safe from all who would do them harm. Guide those who serve in Your Church, that they may care for Your people, protect them from harm, and guide them well as they grow in faith and come to the knowledge of Your unending love.

Amen



St. Joseph's Parish in Capulin, CO



The San Juan Catholic Spiritual Center in La Garita, CO

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT OFFICE

Contact us:

Phone: 719-544-9861 ext. 1111

Email: bnufer@dioceseofpueblo.org

Website: www.diopueblo.org/safe-environment