

DIOCESE OF PUEBLO

COLORADO

Safe Environment Office

Impact Report

-2025-



## *From the Safe Environment Coordinator...*

Welcome to the first-ever Safe Environment Office Impact Report for the Diocese of Pueblo!



Over the last 23 years, the ministry of Safe Environment throughout the United States has undergone significant growth and development. This inaugural report presents a broad overview of the work that we, together, have done in our diocese to advance this mission, and is a celebration of all who participate in, administer, and teach this program. This document aims to highlight our work while articulating the direction and goals of this ministry as we journey towards Christ in all things.

For over two years now, it has been my privilege to work with so many of you to support the implementation of the Diocesan Safe Environment Program. 2025 proved to be a significant year, with the Safe Environment Office ramping up professional development opportunities, completing a background check system rollover, and creating procedural and process improvements that support our sites. None of this would be possible without the incredible partnership and strong commitment each of you have shown, and we look forward to continued collaboration in 2026.

Thank you so much for your support during this remarkable journey, and enjoy.

Most sincerely,

*Brian Nufer*

*Safe Environment Coordinator  
Diocese of Pueblo*

## *From the Chancellor...*

As we approach the closure of another successful year of the Diocesan Safe Environment Program, I would like to take a moment to pause and sincerely thank every one of you for your exceptional dedication, work, and commitment to creating an environment of safety for our children and young people.



While the Safe Environment Ministry has been in place for over two decades, it is your dedication and effort that drive the culture and spirit of sustaining and strengthening child protection for those who worship, study and participate in activities in our diocese. As we journey forward together, it is this dedication which will continue to elevate and transform this ministry of caring for, and protecting, those we serve.

Thank you for being a valued partner in this ministry.

With deepest gratitude,

*Joe'l DeYoung*

*Chancellor  
Diocese of Pueblo*

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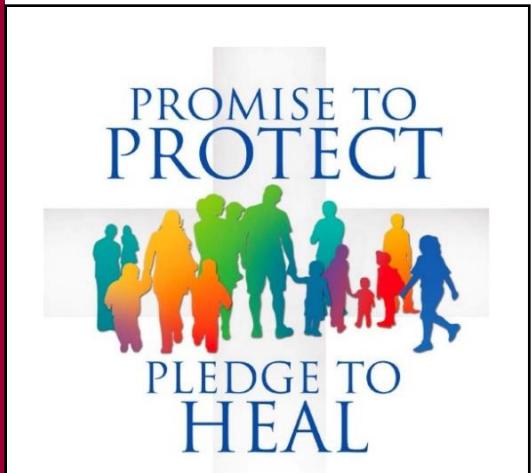
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# About Our Diocese:

**98**

Parishes & Missions

**3**

Catholic Schools

**4**

Charitable  
Organizations

**~50,000**

Square Miles comprise  
the Diocese of Pueblo

**800+**

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 our 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](mailto:bnufer@dioceseofpueblo.org)



# Building Partnerships

## Grand Junction Deanery Tour

In August, the Safe Environment Office was pleased to visit the Grand Junction Deanery in conjunction with the Vicar for Clergy's Office. During the trip, department staff were blessed to have visited:

- Hispanic Affairs Project - Montrose
- Holy Family Catholic School – Grand Junction
- Grand Valley Catholic Outreach – Grand Junction
- St. Joseph's Parish – Grand Junction

It was a pleasure to visit the Grand Junction Deanery, host a catechist networking luncheon at St. Joseph's parish, and build connections with our partners who support the work of Safe Environment for the faithful.



## Monthly Newsletters

Throughout the year, the Safe Environment Office continued its efforts to provide relevant information and resources that support the work of Safe Environment in our diocese. This year's newsletters focused on bringing faith and inspiration into our Safe Environment processes. All catechists 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](mailto:bnufer@dioceseofpueblo.org).

These newsletters remain a critical method of communicating resources and information to the diocese, and the response to this communication remains strong.



## Safe Environment Spotlight: Sacred Heart Parish in Paonia

The Holy Spirit is moving the faithful at Sacred Heart Parish in Paonia, CO! This year, during the annual parish *Circle of Grace* youth Safe Environment Training session, youth enrolled in religious education drew their own "Circles of Grace" in chalk around the parish. The circles visually represented the love of God which surrounds us, and the protection he desires for each of us.

Our youth *Circle of Grace* safe environment program equips all religious educators to teach the dignity of every person, help children to recognize boundaries and identify trusted adults, and recognize God's presence in our lives.



# Equipping our Partners for Success



## About the Safe Environment Toolbox Training Series:

Beginning in 2023, the Safe Environment Office has worked to support everyone involved in the ministry of Safe Environment through robust professional development opportunities. The Safe Environment Toolbox series has equipped diocesan partners with information, resources, and inspiration to carry out their ministries while protecting the faithful.

## “Upholding Dignity Through Our Ministries”

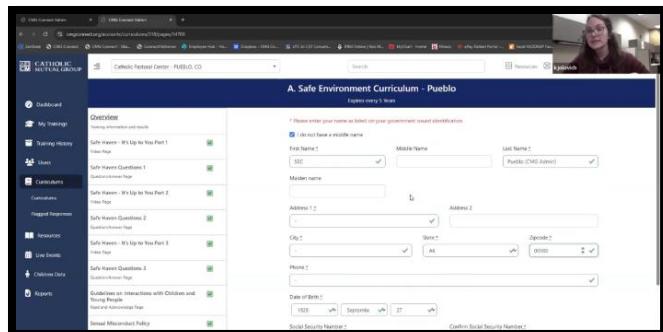
In March, Brian Nufer, and Joe'l DeYoung presented the Safe Environment Toolbox Presentation, **“Upholding Dignity Through Our Ministries”**. This presentation was inspired by the suggestion of a parish catechists, and equipped individuals throughout the diocese with information to support the work of upholding dignity through the creation of Safe Environment. The presentation also detailed how all people who serve in the Church can play a role in upholding dignity in our workplaces as they build the Kingdom of God.

The Safe Environment Office continues to listen to the needs of the diocese in order to develop inspirational and informative development opportunities for diocesan personnel.



## “CMG Connect & Selection.com: Making Safe Environment Simple”

CMG Connect was again invited to present the features and functionalities of the CMG Connect portal to the priests, administrators, and catechists of the diocese in the presentation, **“CMG Connect & Selection.com: Making Safe Environment Simple”**. The presentation detailed how our newly integrated background check system can be managed through the CMG Connect portal, and empowered site administrators to use CMG Connect as an all-inclusive Safe Environment data management tool.





# Improving our Background Check Experience

## The Diocese of Pueblo's Partnership with Selection.com Background Check Screenings

2025 marked an important change for the Diocese of Pueblo's Safe Environment Program. In October, the diocese partnered with Selection.com as its exclusive background check provider.

Selection.com is a faith-based background screening agency that has been in business for over 30 years, and the exclusive background check partner of CMG Connect. With this partnership, both background screenings and Safe Environment training can be completed at one time through the CMG Connect portal. This has proved incredibly effective in simplifying the implementation of the Safe Environment program, and will continue to support the efficacy of the program into the future.

## Making the Screening Process Simple



## Working Together to Complete the Transition

Throughout the entire process of transitioning to Selection.com, countless individuals from across the diocese worked with the Safe Environment Department to support the implementation of the new background check system. From attending presentations and trainings, to completing autopay forms, the support received represented a united front to improve the background check process.

### Questions?

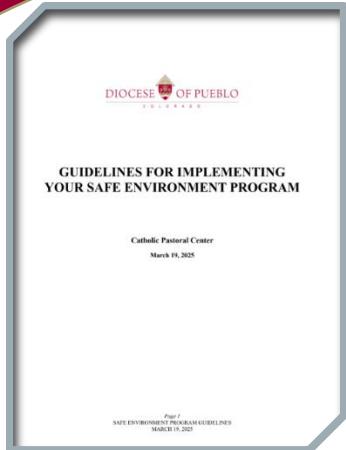
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# Bringing Clarity to our Program



## The *Guidelines for Implementing Your Safe Environment Program*



An important achievement of 2025 was the promulgation of the all-new diocesan *Guidelines for Implementing Your Safe Environment Program*. These guidelines were developed from the questions and comments received from partners across the diocese and lays a foundation for the easy implementation of the Safe Environment Program.

The new guidelines have proven to be a valuable resource for the Diocese of Pueblo, and the Safe Environment Office continues to offer support to parishes through the contents of this guide.

## Sexual Misconduct Policy Updates

The diocesan Sexual Misconduct Policy was updated in late 2024, which has helped to bring greater clarity to the diocesan Safe Environment Program. Specifically, the revisions of the policy have helped our diocese understand background check and safe environment renewal periods. Together, the Safe Environment Office and all parishes, missions, schools, and entities are working together to implement this policy for the benefit of the faithful.



## 2025 By the Numbers



**900+** Phone Calls Made or Received.



**5,000+** Emails Processed.

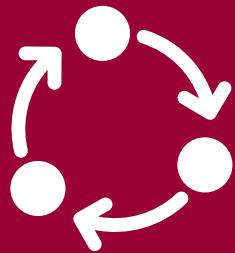


**3** Training Presentations Offered to the Diocese.

## International Trip Guide

In response to questions received from parishes and missions regarding international youth ministry trips, the Safe Environment Office was pleased to put together an all-new international youth ministry trip guide which provides guidance and best practices related to successfully planning, coordinating, and executing an international youth ministry trip.

The Safe Environment Office is excited to continue developing risk-control support resources for our diocese.



# Supporting a Culture of Accountability

## *Annual USCCB Safe Environment Audit*

Each Year, the Diocese of Pueblo completes 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*.

In 2025, the Diocese completed an on-site audit visit to verify our protection initiatives.

### By the Numbers:

**100%**

Of all locations participated in the 2025 audit.

**4**

Locations participated in an on-site visit.

**1000+**

Clergy, employees and volunteers included in the annual audit.

**3000+**

Children and youth included in the annual audit.

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As it has every year since the inception of the USCCB Safe Environment audit in 2003, the Diocese of Pueblo has passed the 2025 audit and is in compliance with the USCCB's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People!

**Through the designated support of the Safe Environment Office, the diocese is refining processes, making it possible for people to encounter Christ, and piloting programs that enhance the faith.**

**The culture of accountability created by the development of a safe environment extends beyond simple compliance. Through the creation of effective processes, empowered partners, and safe ministries, a strong foundation for the Church to thrive is being developed.**

# Shaping the Future of Safe Environment



## What is Next for the Safe Environment Office?

Since its creation in 2023, the diocesan Safe Environment Office has experienced success in establishing the protection of the faithful as a core aspect of the ministries of our diocese and delivering administrative support and consultation for our parishes.

In 2026, the office has plans for continued development, resulting in a greater impact for our diocese, and a stronger support base for those who manage and administer the Safe Environment Program. The effect from these efforts will be a more robust diocese, and stronger Church.

## *Key Objectives for 2026:*



- Strengthen knowledge and support regarding online Safe Environment tools, portals and systems.

- Expand and enrich Safe Environment department services that support parishes, missions, schools and entities.

- Collect feedback and effectively respond to the needs of the diocese.

- Connect and engage with diocesan partners and other diocesan offices to expand operational reach.

# *The Diocesan Safe Environment Office:*

## **Bearing Fruit and Creating Value**

The Diocesan Safe Environment Office is founded upon providing designated support, assistance, and consultation to our parishes, missions, schools, and entities for all things Safe Environment. Through specialized and timely support, and great collaboration with our partners, the diocese is seeing an abundance of fruit from this ministry. Our sites are incorporating the teachings of Theology of the Body and human dignity into formation classes, gaining a stronger understanding of the Diocesan Safe Environment program, easily implementing the program into various ministries, and creating a culture of safety throughout our operations.

We are thrilled to be working with partners across the diocese to advance this important program, and to be a resource that is generating value for our diocese and the faithful we serve.



### **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*

#### Contact us:

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