

Audit finds Diocese of Saginaw in Compliance with Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

The Diocese of Saginaw was found in compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People for 2017-2018, stated the results of the audit conducted by StoneBridge Business Partners. StoneBridge is a Rochester, New York company which specializes in investigatory and analytical business consulting.

Each year since its inception in 2003, the diocese undergoes an audit to ensure its compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which was established by the U.S. bishops in 2002. The Charter includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability and prevention of future acts of abuse. The diocese has been found to be in compliance every year.

“Although the audit found the diocese to be in compliance, we must not be complacent. Rather, we must be vigilant for the sake of the protection of children and young people,” said Bishop Walter A. Hurley, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Saginaw.

Since 2002, more than 12,000 individuals— including clergy, employees and volunteers who have regular contact with youth— have participated in training to prevent child abuse and have undergone background checks before ministering to young people.

Some items the audit looks for include outreach to victims, reporting of allegations to authorities, and confirmation background checks are done. The audit also ensures that educational programs aimed at preventing child sexual abuse are implemented throughout the dioceses for adults and children K-12.

The diocese also offers counseling, spiritual assistance, support groups and other social services to victim-survivors. Our prayers and care remain ceaseless for all those who have been victims of abuse by priests and Church personnel.



Catholic Community Foundation Supports Catholic School Education

The Catholic Community Foundation strives to be the best stewards we can be of the resources established to forever support the ministry of Catholic school education in the Diocese of Saginaw.

The foundation manages more than 90 funds that distribute earnings to Catholic schools for tuition assistance, books, college scholarships, teacher development and compensation as well as school operations. Annual distributions can exceed \$100,000.

Earnings directed to specific schools are evaluated for use by the school administration with assistance from the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Saginaw, Cormac Lynn. He assists the foundation in evaluating grant proposals related to Catholic schools.

“I was humbled to learn of the extensive number of funds and the assets available to support the continual improvement of our Catholic schools,” Lynn said. “The funds make it possible for our schools to flourish and enrich the student experience academically and spiritually.”

School administrators use the funds in a variety of ways to underwrite strategic projects. Recent examples of fund use include implementation of new world language curriculum and the establishment of a “makerspace,” a hands-on learning center designed to cultivate student creativity and application of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math).

Some endowment funds were

established by a single generous donor while others were created by a community of donors. Regardless of the fund’s origin, anyone can contribute to any of these funds that consistently help our Catholic schools thrive.

While some funds are intended to support individual schools, there are other funds that are intentionally broad and intended to support general Catholic school education and the teachers that make education possible. Other funds exist to support parish based faith formation programs; these funds can be specific to individual parishes or general by design so as to serve a broad application of ministries.

Additionally, the foundation manages accounts that direct earnings to support broad Catholic formation ministries including community-based programs such as Youth Encounter Service and continuing education opportunities such as the Lay Ministry program.

Gifts come in many ways, and there are no restrictions on the size or number of gifts that can be made to endowment funds. To learn more about making a gift or to explore a full list of existing funds managed by the Catholic Community Foundation, contact the foundation office 989.797.6627, or visit the website at CCFMM.org.