



A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF  
THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.



**VIRTUS<sup>®</sup>**Online



# Safeguarding for SVDP Members

## What

*“Safeguarding is the act of protecting from harm people who are vulnerable. It involves reducing and preventing risks of harm.”*

- SVDP National initiative to protect vulnerable persons... children, youth, elderly, those with physical and/or emotional disabilities
- All SVDP members now required to be “safe environment certified” with background screening, training & signing Safeguarding policy
- Safeguarding has been required for all church and school employees

## Background

### **Pope Francis March 2019 Apostolic Letter**

*“The protection of minors and vulnerable persons is an integral part of the Gospel message that the Church and its members are called to proclaim throughout the world”*



<b>June 2021</b>	SVDP National Board resolution for local SVDP Councils to formulate a Safeguarding policy and implement appropriate practices
<b>Sept 2023</b>	SVDP Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council approves Safeguarding policy
<b>Nov 2023</b>	SVDP MKE District Council directs Conferences to implement Safeguarding with all members to be certified under the CMGConnect program
<b>NOV 2025</b>	SVDP Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council reviews Safeguarding policy and establishes VIRTUS as new platform for Safeguarding training

## Why Safeguarding

All those that we/SVDP Vincentians serve are considered individuals in need and deemed to be “vulnerable persons”

- Training to ensure vulnerable individuals & volunteers are safe
- Education as to appropriate boundaries and safe environment practices

## How to Achieve

### VIRTUS Online Training Modules

- New members/volunteers register with Virtus Online
  - [VIRTUS Registration Page](#)
- Review Safeguarding Policy
- Register for Background Check
- Complete online Training Modules

## VIRTUS Online Components

- Healthy Boundaries for Adults: Boundary Development and Implementation 1.0
- Protecting God’s Children Awareness Session 4.0 & Vulnerable Adults 2.09 Combined



**Safe  
Environment  
Certification  
for 5 years**