

# St. Veronica Church, Archdiocese of Cincinnati

## CHILD PROTECTION DECREE POLICY

January 2006

*Although the abuse of children and adolescents is a reality in our society, such abuse, whether mental, physical or sexual, whether inflicted by lay persons or clerics, professionals or volunteers, cannot be tolerated in the Church. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati recognizes the need to address child abuse and attempts to do so through this Decree.*

*The purpose of this Decree is two-fold. It is intended first to prevent the abuse of children and adolescents. Prevention can best be achieved by educating children, parents, professionals and volunteers about the realities of abuse. It can be aided by the screening of professionals and volunteers who aspire to serve the youth of our parishes and other institutions and through assistance to those who might be inclined toward abuse. The second purpose of this Decree is to provide a system for handling incidents of abuse after they occur. The key elements of this system include a thorough assessment of the allegation, care for the victim and the victim's family, appropriate action with regard to the accused person and attention to the affected local church community.*

*Excerpt from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Decree on Child Protection Introduction*

St. Veronica Parish requires all adult volunteers, 18 years or older, working with children in any capacity to complete the Child Protection Decree requirements set forth by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. For the purposes of this policy, "adult" excludes 18 & 19 year olds not yet graduated from high school. Effective July 1, 2004, *no employee or volunteer may have contact with children* until a positive report has been successfully received by the Pastor. There are to be no exceptions to this policy.

To complete the Child Protection Decree requirements, volunteers must attend a Child Protection Orientation Session and be fingerprinted. Orientation sessions are offered monthly at St. Veronica as well as other nearby parish locations. Volunteers must be fingerprinted in accordance with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations. If an individual has lived in Ohio less than 5 years an FBI fingerprinting check is also required. A card will be mailed to your home upon successful completion of the Child Protection Decree requirements. This card should be kept with you at all times when you are volunteering with children.

A list of current locations, dates and times for both the Child Protection Orientation Sessions and Fingerprinting locations is available on the reverse of this page. You may also obtain more information by calling the St. Veronica Parish Office at 528-1622 or through the links on the Archdiocesan Website [www.catholiccincinnati.org](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org).

Upcoming Child Protection Orientation Sessions (*Time – approximately one hour*)

St. Veronica Chapel	Monday	February 27, 2006	7:00 p.m.	528-1622
St. Columban (Loveland)	Saturday	March 4, 2006	9:00 a.m.	683-0105
St. Veronica Chapel	Wednesday	March 15, 2006	7:00 p.m.	528-1622
St. Veronica Chapel	Tuesday	April 25, 2006	7:00 p.m.	528-1622
St. Veronica Chapel	Tuesday	May 2, 2006	7:00 p.m.	528-1622
St. Veronica Chapel	Monday	May 22, 2006	7:00 p.m.	528-1622

Fingerprinting Locations and Times (*Time – approximately 10 minutes*)

Immaculate Heart of Mary            388-4466

Parish Office

7820 Beechmont Ave

Tues, Wed & Thurs; 9am-6pm

Archdiocese of Cincinnati (downtown)

100 E. Eighth Street (8<sup>th</sup> floor)    421-3131

Monday –Friday; 9am-4pm

Holy Trinity (Norwood)            366-4400

2420 Drex Ave. (at Montgomery Rd)

Monday-Thursday; 9am-3pm

St. John (West Chester)            777-6433

9080 Cincinnati-Dayton Road

Mon & Tues 5-7pm; Weds 10am-7pm; Sat 9-11am