



Bishop of Gary

May 13, 2026

Dear Pastors and Administrators,

At the end of April, your Safe Environment Coordinators received an invitation to attend the upcoming Safe Environment Conference at the Pastoral Center on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This conference is intended to provide helpful information about completing the Annual Safe Environment Audit. Pastors and administrators are welcome to attend.

The following day, the Diocese of Gary Safe Environment Office will distribute by email the materials and instructions required to complete the annual Safe Environment Audit. The purpose of the audit is to verify that the Diocese of Gary is in complete compliance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *"Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal."*

Each parish and school is required to complete and submit an audit report. Should you choose to delegate this responsibility to your local Safe Environment Coordinator, please ensure that this work is completed in collaboration with your director of religious education, youth minister, school principal, and other appropriate staff.

Completed audit reports are due by email to Kathy Lafakis by Saturday, June 20, 2026. Blank copies of the audit sheets will be available on the dcgary.org website.

Thank you for supporting the bishops' Charter and your cooperation with the Safe Environment Office at the Pastoral Center. If you or your local Safe Environment Coordinator have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kathy Lafakis by email at klafakis@dcgary.org or call the Pastoral Center at 219-769-9292, x88280.

Asking God's blessing upon you and with a promise of prayers, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McClory
Bishop of Gary