

Non-Supervisory Adult / Adult Participant Code of Conduct

The Catholic Diocese of Owensboro is committed to providing a safe environment for minors and vulnerable adults within all activities and ministries of the diocese. All the faithful are responsible for taking every reasonable action to ensure everyone's safety. The following guidelines are in effect for Adult Participants of events in the diocese.

I WILL:

- **I will treat everyone with respect, courtesy, and consideration**, in a manner consistent with the mission of the Catholic Church and the Diocese of Owensboro.
- **I will avoid situations where I am alone with a minor or vulnerable adult.** I understand that at least two adults should be present when there is only one minor or vulnerable adult, and at least two participants should be present when there is only one supervisory adult.
- **I will ensure that any one-on-one meetings with a minor or vulnerable adult are held in a public area or in a visible area** such as in an office with an interior window or an open door so that another person can be present outside the room as a witness.
- **I will maintain appropriate physical and emotional boundaries** with everyone present.
- **I will keep cell phones/pagers off or in silent/vibrate mode** to keep from disrupting or distracting from activities, especially liturgy and prayer.
- **I will treat property with care.** If I break something or see something broken, I will tell a supervisory adult.
- **I will avoid posing any health risk to others** (i.e. fevers or other contagious situations).
- **I understand that the diocesan Search and Seizure policy is in effect.**
- **I will behave in a way that respects the rights of all.** If I am being hurt or if I become aware of another person being hurt verbally/physically, I will notify a supervisory adult.
- If I become aware of anyone violating this Code of Conduct, **I will take responsibility to report that violation** to the appropriate level of supervisor so the issue can be addressed and all can be kept safe.

I WILL NOT:

- **I will not use, possess, or be under the influence of, any alcoholic beverage or any illegal drugs** while attending this event. In addition **I will not inappropriately use any legal drug or mood-altering substance** in this setting.
- **I will not have a weapon in my possession.** (Exception: Active law enforcement officers who are required by law to carry a weapon.—those individuals must guarantee that weapon is secured at all times from access by any other person.)
- **I will not have any sexually explicit or morally inappropriate materials** on Church property or at any Church event. Such materials include, but are not limited to: magazines, videos, films, recordings, computer software, computer games, or printed material. I will not engage with minors in **topics of conversation** or discussion, vocabulary or any other form of personal interaction or entertainment that could not reasonably be used in the presence of parents or a responsible adult. I will not engage in sexually oriented conversations with anyone except in the context of sharing the Church's teaching on human sexuality.
- **I will not speak to others in a way that is or could be construed by an observer as derogatory, demeaning, or humiliating.**

I promise to strictly follow the rules in this Code of Conduct as a condition of my attendance at this event. I understand that any illegal behavior may involve legal authorities. I understand that any serious violation of this Code of Conduct may result in my dismissal from the event, and/or financial and physical responsibility for transportation home (in the case of an off-site event).

Name (Please Print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I hereby consent to the use of a photograph of me for the purpose of publication. ____ Yes ____ No (v. July 2008)