

Ethics and Integrity in Ministry: Code of Ethics

Relationships among people are a foundation of Christian ministry and are central to Catholic life. Defining healthy and safe relationships is not meant, in any way, to undermine the strength and importance of personal contact or the ministerial role. Rather, it is to assist all who fulfill the many roles that create the living Church to demonstrate their love and compassion for children and adults in the most sincere and genuine relationships.

It is with the intention that relationships in ministry be experienced at all times as charitable and without intention to do harm or allow harm to occur that the following Code of Ethics has been adopted by the Diocese of Austin. Those that serve in ministry in the Diocese of Austin are asked to carefully consider each standard in the code and within the policies before agreeing to adhere to the standards and continue in service to the Diocese.

Those who serve in ministry in the Diocese of Austin shall:

- Exhibit the highest Christian ethical standards and personal integrity.
- Conduct themselves in a moral manner that is consistent with the discipline, norms and teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Provide a professional work environment that is free from harassment.
- Not take advantage of a counseling, supervisory or authoritative relationship for their own benefit.
- Not act in an abusive or neglectful manner.
- Share concerns about suspicious or inappropriate behavior with their pastor, their principal, the Vicar General, the Superintendent of Catholic schools or the Bishop.
- Adhere to the requirements of the law of the State of Texas regarding the reporting of any suspected abuse of a minor.
- Accept their personal responsibility in the protection of minors from all forms of abuse.
- Follow the policies on Ethics and Integrity in Ministry.