



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

March 2, 2020

My brother priests,

As you are aware, in late 2018 I asked Judge Jones to take a close look at how the Archdiocese of New York was doing living up to its promises and policies in protecting young people and vulnerable adults. After a year-long review, she gave the archdiocese high marks, but did make some very helpful suggestions on how we could do some things better.

At the same time, the Office of Youth Ministry had been working arduously to develop a manual for parish Catholic youth ministry to assist adult leaders in ensuring the safety and well-being of the young people entrusted to their care.

Now, having taken into consideration Judge Jones' recommendations, the *Guidelines and Policies for Parish Catholic Youth Ministry in the Archdiocese of New York* has been finalized. These policies and procedures are designed to assist adult leaders in forming sound practices and judgments in the various aspects of their ministry to ensure the safety of the young people in their groups and activities, and minimize risks to their well-being. It is meant to help guide all those who work with young people in creating fruitful opportunities for encounter and formation in ways that ensure all aspects of the young person's safety.

This manual is the result of countless hours of work, and the collaboration of the Departments of Youth Faith Formation, Safe Environment, Catholic Mutual Insurance, Legal Affairs, as well as practitioners in the field of youth ministry. I am confident that the successful implementation of these policies and guidelines will help to ensure the safety and well-being of all young people in our parishes.

My hope is that this becomes the *vade mecum* for every aspect of your ministry by, with, and to youth in your parish. Please make sure that every adult leader that interacts with young people is made aware of this manual and the policies contained within. All parishes will be receiving hard copies. A digital version of this manual will be available online as well.

I am grateful for all you do to bring our young people to know Jesus, and for ensuring their safety and well-being.

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

† Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York