



2026

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

For more than two decades, our diocese has remained steadfast in our commitment to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse. Since the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) first adopted the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* in 2002, we have worked diligently to ensure that its mandates are fully lived out in every parish, school and ministry across the diocese. I hope those efforts are evident as you review these pages.

As we look back on the significant strides we have made, we also acknowledge that this work is ongoing. We cannot and will not become complacent and we will remain committed to our promise to protect and pledge to heal. To every victim/survivor, I once again offer my heartfelt apology.

The diocese is blessed with dedicated individuals who support our efforts to protect God's beloved children and aid in the healing process. I urge anyone harmed by Church leaders to contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator, Terrienne Yanulavich, Ph.D. at (518) 569-0612 to begin healing. Dr. Yanulavich provides compassionate pastoral care and assists with the intake and reporting of allegations to local authorities. As always, all allegations are immediately reported by the diocese to local law enforcement, and survivors are also encouraged to report directly to civil authorities.

Our Safe Environment Office, under the leadership of Mrs. Christine Cobb, continues to collaborate with our parishes, Catholic schools and diocesan entities to implement the comprehensive policies and procedures that safeguard those entrusted to our care. We anticipate that the USCCB's Charter will be revised sometime in 2026. Mrs. Cobb will work with the Diocesan Review Board to update, revise and strengthen our own policies and procedures to reflect new Charter directives.

I remain deeply grateful for the cooperation of all whose dedication makes our safe environment initiatives effective. Your efforts contribute to our diocese consistently being found in compliance with the Charter during independent audits. By continuing to work together, we are creating a culture of safety, compassion, accountability and renewed trust.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg