

## **Media Backgrounder II**

### **Safe Environment Training Program at the Fort Worth Diocese**

**Introduction:** The safe environment training program at the Fort Worth Diocese is titled *Keeping Children and Youth Safe*. The Diocese uses the *Called to Protect* Program produced by Praesidium, Inc.

**Director of the Safe Environment Program: Charmaine Williams**

#### **Key Highlights:**

- All personnel, including all clergy and all employees are required to complete the safe environment training program. All volunteers who have regular contact with children must also complete the safe environment training program. All must be retrained every three years.
- All employees and volunteers are screened during the interview and hiring process. The screening packet for new volunteers is available on the Fort Worth Diocese website [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org).
- The safe environment training program stresses it is unlikely that you will see a child being abused. But, it is likely that you may witness boundary violations, which signal potential danger to a child or vulnerable adult. The Diocese creates a culture of safety by being watchful, having the courage to confront the person and making a report to supervisors.
- The program training includes:
  - Participation in the safe environment session which uses the Praesidium *Called To Protect* program
  - Reading and signing the *Code of Conduct and Behavior Standards for Ministers, Employees and Volunteers* (to be done annually)
  - A background evaluation
- All programs require the presence of two adults or one adult and an older teen.

#### **Called to Protect Training Statistics**

Number of personnel trained to date: 12,000

Number of personnel receiving follow-up (three-year interval) training to date: 1,650