



PASTORAL OFFICE  
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March 18, 2015

TO: Rev. Papa Rao Pasala

CC: Kathy Cutsforth and Mary Ann Elguezabal

**RE: home-based parishioner-led children and youth activities and Diocesan Protection of Children Policy.**

Greetings Fr. Papa,

I pray you, the parish staff and parishioners are well.

I have been asked to clarify the diocesan policy regarding parishioner initiated and led activities with children and youth other than their own. Diocesan policies' concerning the protection of the children (i.e. background checks, code of conduct, and safe-environment training) applies to any parish sanctioned event or activity, both on the parish premises and offsite (e.g. retreats), that involves children and youth. Diocesan policies for the protection of children do not extend to the homes of parishioners, unless the activity is a sanctioned parish event.

Parishioners are free to initiate events and activities at their home and to personally invite others to attend. With the pastor's permission parishioners may advertise events/activities through normal parish communications (e.g. flyers) for the purpose of inviting other parishioners to attend. Any such promotion should clearly communicate that it is not a "parish sponsored event" for purposes of liability and protection of children policies.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry M. Metzentine".

Barry M. Metzentine  
Director of Evangelization and Catechesis  
Coordinator for Protecting God's Children