



DIocese OF BILOXI
1790 POPPS FERRY ROAD
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI 39532-2118
(228) 702-2111 FAX (228) 702-2139

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 5, 2006

To All Pastors/Rectors/Administrators

Dear Reverend Monsignor/Father:

We are blessed with the number of volunteers who have come, and continue to come, to our area to assist us with our recovery. May God bless each of them for the generosity of spirit and hard work.

There are some groups of young people who are under the age of 18 who wish to volunteer in our area. While this is acceptable, the presence of minors requires care that they are safe from misconduct.

It is the practice among the dioceses of our country that, if a youth group visits another diocese, the bishop of the home diocese will first send to the bishop's office a letter attesting that "all youth ministry leaders and chaperones/volunteers, both Catholic and non-Catholic, from that diocese have been screened by a third party and safe environment trained, as required by the procedures of his diocese." It is very important that we comply strictly with this procedure. The cooperation of all parishes is essential for the welfare of all. Attached is a sample letter that the bishop of the home diocese may wish to use.

The Diocese of Biloxi has been spared in recent years the misconduct which has caused such harm and pain to victims and their families, scandal to the faithful, and financial costs to dioceses, even resulting in bankruptcy in some cases. It would be a great tragedy if, after all the efforts to recover from Katrina, misconduct with minors would undo the hard won revitalization of our parishes.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Your leadership in these days of recovery is a blessing to all the people of our diocese. May God bless you and your priestly ministry.

Sincerely in the Lord,

+ Thomas J. Rodi

Most Reverend Thomas J. Rodi
Bishop of Biloxi

DATE

Most Reverend Thomas J. Rodi
Bishop of Biloxi
1790 Popps Ferry Road
Biloxi, Mississippi 39532

Dear Bishop Rodi:

This letter is to inform you that ____ youth and ____ adults from the Diocese of ____ will be visiting the Diocese of Biloxi for the purposes of helping with the post Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts from ____ to ____, 2006. They will be staying at ____ during their visit.

All adult youth ministers and all other accompanying adults in our group have satisfied the requirements, including background investigations, of our diocesan policy under the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth.

Sincerely in the Lord,