

Office of the Bishop

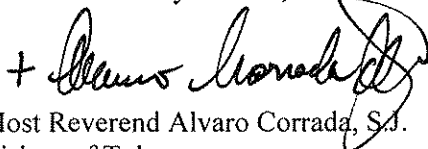
DECREE ESTABLISHING UPDATED RECERTIFICATION FOR ACS HOLDERS

The Diocese of Tyler is entering its seventh year under our Ethics and Integrity Policy for Church Personnel. Progress has been made, to some extent, in creating a safe environment within the Church. The training of Church Personnel, their commitment to the Code of Ethics and Integrity, and the routine background check, have helped raise awareness of the need for a safe environment and not to simply meet compliance obligations under the Charter for Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults.

In order to continue the good progress that has been made, and to further our efforts to foster a safe environment for all God's children, as Bishop of the Diocese of Tyler, I hereby establish the following concerning the Acceptance Certificate for Service (ACS):

1. The ACS will be valid for three years from the date the person participated in their training (Basic, Awareness, or Recertification). Church Personnel may NOT continue in their ministry with an expired ACS. Attending the same Recertification Training a second time may not be used to extend or renew an ACS.
2. Every three years a new Recertification Training Program will be developed by the Diocese of Tyler. Effective July 1, 2009 the new version of Recertification Training will take the place of the 2006 version.
3. Recertification for renewing the ACS will consist of: An hour and a half Diocesan approved training, conducted by approved trainers; Recommitment by signing again the Code of Ethics and Integrity for all Church Personnel; Cooperation with updating the criminal background check. Fee of \$10.00.
4. All clergy of the Diocese of Tyler and all clergy serving in the Diocese of Tyler as of August 1, 2009, are to complete recertification for ACS before the first fall clergy days (October 15 for priests and October 28 for Deacons) The clergy may attend any of the recertification trainings that are offered in our diocese. Any clergy who have not complete the recertification process (training, commitment to the code and background check) by the above Clergy Day, will be required to remain at the end of the Clergy Day for the hour and a half training. I impose this obligation on all the clergy of the Diocese and the clergy serving in our diocese, irregardless of when the ACS was obtained. This is essential as the priests and deacons need to lead the efforts to create a safe environment.

Given this 22 day of June, 2009.

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Most Reverend Alvaro Corrada, S.J.
Bishop of Tyler

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