

POLICY ON CHURCH PERSONNEL CONDUCT

The Diocese of Tyler expects all Church personnel (whether priest, deacon, vowed religious, paid employee, or volunteer) to conduct their lives and ministry (whether in a parish, mission, Catholic School, or other Catholic institution or ministry) with ethics and integrity. While Vatican II calls all baptized and confirmed Christians to holiness, the obligation upon Church personnel is increased because of their education and position. They should lead by an example that will inspire others to follow Jesus more closely in their life and they should always safe guard the well being of others. Ethics and integrity in ministry requires “doing what is right” rather than simply not breaking the rules

All Church personnel are to be committed to a life of ethics and integrity and formally commit themselves to the Code of Ethics and Integrity for the Conduct of Church Personnel in the Diocese of Tyler.

All Church personnel will cooperate with criminal background check and will report promptly if they are ever accused, arrested, fined, or convicted of any charge involving abuse of a minor or an adult.

A Promoter of Justice will be appointed who is to receive concerns regarding possible Church personnel who violate the Code of Ethics and Integrity, Guidelines for Ethical behavior, commonly accepted professional or social conduct, or any behavior that places the people of God and most especially children at risk. Reporting or questions can be made to the pastor, principal, head of the agency, or to the Promoter of Justice or to the Bishop. **The Promoter of Justice can be reached at 903 266-2159.**

A Panel of lay persons will be established to promote accountability in responding to cases of possible misconduct by Church personnel, by reviewing cases and giving advice to the Diocese through the office of the Judicial Vicar.

The Diocese will maintain written guidelines to further insure that behavior of Church personnel is guided by ethics and integrity for: counseling situations, ministry with minors, reporting of concerns, and other areas as seems warranted.

The Diocese of Tyler is committed to both justice and openness. The documents to implement and support this policy will be publicly available on the website (www.dioceseoftyler.org) and by request from the Business Office.

This policy and the accompanying guidelines supercede prior policy concerning conduct of Church personnel in the Diocese of Tyler. This policy is signed the 27th day of February 2003 and is effective March 1, 2003

Most Reverend Alvaro Corrada del Rio, S.J.