

Safe Environment

A Letter from the Most Reverend Robert F. Vasa Bishop of Santa Rosa

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I commend and thank you for your desire to serve Christ and His Church through some form of Parish or Diocesan apostolate. Your desire, while commendable, does not take from me or others in leadership positions in the Diocese the responsibility we have to be vigilant about keeping children safe. A part of that vigilance includes a screening of employees and volunteers. I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this screening process. A second part, and in some ways a more critical part, involves your participation in the Shield the Vulnerable training designed to make you more aware of the prevalence of child abuse in our society, its subtle warning signs and what you, as a volunteer, are to do in cases of suspected abuse or neglect.

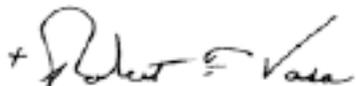
Any form of child abuse is absolutely contrary to the Gospel values of care and concern that Jesus commands us to have for one another. Child abuse is contrary to all that the Catholic Church believes and professes about the dignity of human persons. It is never to be tolerated.

The Statutes of the Diocese of Santa Rosa mandate that all its personnel – clerics, religious, employees and volunteers – are bound to maintain the strictest legal and moral standards in their ministerial relationships, especially with regard to young persons. Abusive conduct toward children or young people is not only a crime; it is a serious violation of Catholic moral teaching.

Vigilance is necessary in order to prevent abuse and to see that no child, not one at all, is victimized by such sinful and hurtful behavior. The Diocese of Santa Rosa is committed to the protection of children and your vigilance is essential to the fulfillment of this commitment.

Asking every good grace and blessing of God upon you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Robert F. Vasa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Bishop Robert F. Vasa

Bishop of Santa Rosa