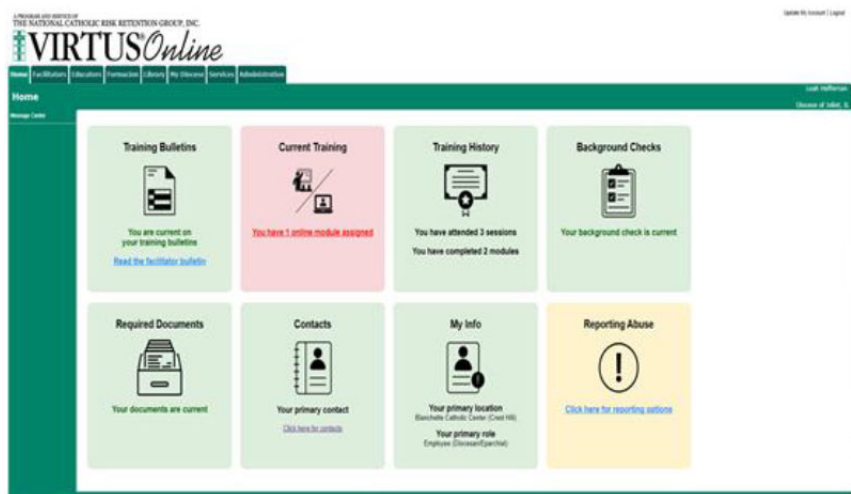


Happy Spring! I hope that you and your families are well.

I have a couple updates to share with you regarding Protecting God's Children and compliance and VIRTUS:

1. **VIRTUS Home Tab** - A new VIRTUS Home Tab for all users will be put into place on April 1st! What this means is that when any user logs onto their VIRTUS account, they will be greeted with a screen that looks like this (please see below):



There are different boxes that reflect the compliance requirements for each respective user: Training Bulletins, Current Training, Training History, Background Checks, and Required Documents. When a box is green, it means that specific compliance requirement has been met. When a box is red, it means that there is a compliance requirement that needs to be completed with link(s) that will take the user to that requirement. There will be two green boxes for informational purposes: Contacts (reflects the primary contact/local administrator for a user's site) and My Info (will house the user's information). Lastly, there will be a yellow box: Reporting Abuse (will include links to information on how to report abuse).

There is also an update for minor's volunteering in a school/parish setting.

Compliance update for minor volunteers (under the age of 18) – As of April 1st, compliance requirements for minor volunteers who minister with children/vulnerable adults are:

- Each minor volunteer must register for a Virtus account, which will prompt them to take the required training, “Healthy Relationships for Teens 2.0”
- A staff member at the site where the minor is volunteering must review with the minor the content of the DOJ’s Standards of Behavior for Those Working with Minors

When a minor volunteer turns 18, VIRTUS will automatically prompt the user to complete all requirements of an adult volunteer:

- Take a VIRTUS Protecting God’s Children for Adults class
- Sign a release form for a name based background check to be conducted
- Read the DOJ’s Pastoral Policy Regarding Sexual Abuse of Minors and the DOJ’s Standards of Behavior for Those Working with Minors – and sign the Acknowledgement Form
- If they are volunteering as a DRE, CRE, youth minister, coach, or scout leader – take Mandated Reporter Training

Please be sure that all your information in VIRTUS is updated, **including your e-mail address**. To do this, log onto your VIRTUS account, go to the top right hand corner of your computer screen, and click on, “Update My Account.” Going forward, OCYP (Office of Children and Youth Protection) will be using your e-mail associated with your VIRTUS account to send regular communications and updates to all of you.

It is good practice to check your Virtus account regularly and update it as needed. This will keep your compliance current for when you wish to volunteer at SMG. Another change this year is that all **Coaches, Catechists, Scout Leaders, Youth Minister volunteers** will be required to view the Online Mandated Reporter Training required by the State of Illinois. Renewal of the training is required every three (3) years. As you volunteer in the upcoming year, I will send out the MR training information to you if volunteering in one of the positions stated above.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

God bless,

Deacon Bob

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