



THE DIOCESE OF YAKIMA • PASTORAL OFFICE
LA DIÓCESIS DE YAKIMA • CENTRO PASTORAL

March 5, 2013

Dear Friends,

Please let me take this opportunity to thank you for your service in the Diocese of Yakima. Our parish and school programs would not be nearly so successful without the efforts of our dedicated volunteers and employees.

Some of these programs require our volunteers and employees to agree to have a criminal background check, and to undergo special training as part of our Safe Environment Program (SEP). Background checks are also required for those involved in the handling of money. The purpose of the SEP is to help ensure that our parishes and schools are safe places for all we serve, especially our children, youth, and vulnerable adults. As a pastor, auxiliary bishop, and now Bishop of Yakima, I myself have had background checks and undergone this important training several times. I also have a responsibility to ensure that the generous donations given by parishioners are properly handled.

Part of the background check process requires that you provide us with your social security number, unless you do not have one (in which case there is space for you on the back of the background check form to attest that you do not have a number).

I understand that many people have concerns about the safety of their personal information. I share that concern. I am asking you to share this information with us only because it is a crucial part of the process. It allows the company we use to make sure of the identity of the person whose background is being checked. This is a protection both for the church, and for the person who is being checked. Also, the results of the background check are shared only with us.

I want to assure you that your personal information is treated with the utmost care. Usually our Chancellor, Monsignor Robert Siler, or our Vice Chancellor for Personnel and Policies, Diana Aparicio-Sosa, are the only ones who see the forms. In the 12 years or so we have been conducting background checks, there has never been a breach of security in keeping this information safe.

Again, thank you again for your service. I appreciate your help in making our Safe Environment Program, and our procedures for handling donations, the best they can be.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson

Bishop of Yakima

[Signature electronically applied]