

# PROTECTION OF MINORS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

## Commitment

The diocese of Saint-Jean-Longueuil commits to

- Promoting safe, open and responsible pastoral ministry;
- Applying a zero-tolerance policy for any form of violence, psychological or sexual harassment, or discrimination;
- Combatting sexual abuse, abuse of power and abuse of conscience towards minors and vulnerable adults;
- Supporting victims of sexual assault committed by members of the clergy, lay pastoral staff or other diocesan employees or volunteers;
- Handling allegations responsibly, pastorally and transparently.

## Training

- Authorized pastoral staff have received special training on the prevention of child sexual abuse;
- *A Handbook for the Responsible Management of Volunteers* is in effect in our diocese: it includes the necessary measures for checking references and doing criminal record checks of volunteers whose work brings them into contact with minors or vulnerable adults.

## Reporting

- **EMERGENCY:** call **911**.
- **MINORS:** If you have reason to believe that the safety or development of a child is being or could be compromised because he or she is experiencing physical or sexual abuse, you are obliged to report it immediately to the Office of the Director of Youth Protection. You can make a report to the DYP 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by calling **1 800 361-5310**.
- **THE ELDERLY:** If you are concerned about a situation in which an elderly person appears to be experiencing abuse, call the Elder Mistreatment Helpline: **1 888 489-2287**.
- If you are experiencing or have experienced sexual abuse by a member of the clergy or diocesan pastoral staff, you can report it to the person designated by the bishop to intervene in cases of sexual offences by phone at **1 833 337-DSJL (1 833 337-3755)** or by email at **SIGNALEMENT@DSJL.ORG**

Diocesan decrees that govern the handling of allegations are available on the diocesan website: **DSJL.ORG**