Reverend Fathers, Parish Council Presidents: Please be sure to read this letter in its entirety and forward this to your Parish Youth Safety Administrator so that you may review this with him/her to evaluate the plan for your parish.

The Archdiocese is expecting all parishes to be compliant by the end of January for the Archdiocese insurance coverage of our parishes to continue. Making this goal should not be only the responsibility of the Parish Youth Safety Administrator (PYSA), but a parish effort. In order for this to happen, your assistance is needed.

*Please be aware that below is concerning the Archdiocese Policy for Youth Safety and we still have our Metropolis Policy for Youth Safety began in 2015.*

**SUBJECT: YOUTH SAFETY and GOYA ATHLETICS**

January 14, 2020

Reverend Fathers, Parish Council Presidents, Parish Youth Safety Administrators, Youth Workers, GOYA Advisors and Parish Secretaries,

Christ is in our Midst!

The company that is providing the Youth Safety services for our Archdiocese, Praesidium Inc, suffered a water main break in mid-November and they have been out of the office. This past week, they were forced to relocate to temporary location for the next few months. On Friday, Praesidium Inc. was fully operational for the first time since mid-November. We are finally able to call their new offices and receive assistance from the Support Desk.

**Archdiocese Youth Safety Update:**

As indicated in a letter from Archbishop Elpidophoros ([Important Update about Youth Safety Rollout, posted here](#)), the Screen packages and pricing have changed.

1) Praesidium Inc will now only offer two packages: a Standard Package and a Standard Package with a Driver’s License Check (MVR).

2) The new [Pricing Chart for Parishes](#) and the [new Contract](#) are found [here](#). (If you have already submitted a contract, you may change the contract, but you do not need to submit a new contract.)

3) Price Change Recap:
   --Standard Package (formerly Policy Minimum Pkg) now is a flat fee of $28 per screening
   --Standard Package with MVR is now $33 plus Third Party Fees (avg of $15 more depending in where you reside in our Metropolis)
   --If have already submitted Package choices and want to change packages, your PYSA must go in and change choices manually.

4) If a parish wants to switch from the 'parish paying' to the 'applicant paying' due to the price increase, your Parish Youth Safety Administrator (PYSA) needs to send an email to support@praesidiuminc.com. Once again, no new contract needs to be signed. Please note that this change may take 10-14 business days to be implemented and any Youth Workers entered into the system for a background check before confirmation that the change is in place, will be processed under existing protocol.
5) Any new Parish Contracts that came in during Praesidium’s down time will be processed as soon as possible and do not need to be resubmitted. The Praesidium team has been working through this backlog as quickly as possible, dedicating staff overtime to quickly process the contracts.

6) Metropolis Administrators are able to log-in at any time to see which parishes have active accounts. (Below is the most recent list of the 30 Metropolis Parishes that have submitted contracts that have been entered into the system.)

7) Those background checks that were temporarily held, as well as new background checks will have begun to be processed.

8) Praesidium has automatically re-issued all email invitations for background checks that expired during this time.

9) If you have uploaded your Parish Youth Worker’s info and they can’t find their email with login info to complete the Armatus Training, have them look in Spam first.

Here are directions for them to login if they can’t not locate their email:

**ARMATUS YOUTH WORKER TRAINING (Two Courses: Youth Safety and Youth Worker Regulations)**

--Go to: [https://armatus2.praesidiuminc.com/armatusUser/armatus/portal](https://armatus2.praesidiuminc.com/armatusUser/armatus/portal)

--Your login is your first initial of your legal name and your last name. Ex: Yianni Pappas would be ypappas.

--Your password is the last four digits of your cell phone and the abbreviation of your state of residence. Examples: 5529PA, 8543OH or 3041WV.

10) Grandfathering in of those Youth Workers, specifically Clergy & Camp Staff who met the requirements in 2019 will be completed by the end of January by Praesidium.

11) The Archdiocese goal is to have compliance throughout all our Archdiocesan parishes by January 31, 2020. (I have expressed concern that this is not a realistic goal considering Praesidium has been closed for the past month & a half.)

**Thank you to the 30 Parishes who have submitted contracts to date:**

| All Saints, Canonsburg          | Kimisis Tis Theotokou, Aliquippa |
| All Saints, Weirton             | St Demetrios, Rocky River         |
| Annunciation Cathedral, Columbus| St. George, Massillon             |
| Annunciation, Akron             | St George, New Castle             |
| Annunciation, Cleveland         | St Haralambos, Canton             |
| Annunciation, Lancaster         | St John the Divine, Wheeling      |
| Annunciation, Scranton          | St Matthew, Blandon               |
| Annunciation, York              | St Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh |
| Archangel Michael, Campbell     | St Nicholas, Youngstown           |
| Assumption, Morgantown          | St Paul, North Royalton           |
| Evangelismos, Easton            | St Spyridon, Clarksburg           |
| Holy Cross, Stroudsburg          | St Spyridon, Monessen             |
| Holy Trinity, Ambridge          | Sts Constantine & Helen Cathedral, Miami Heights |
| Holy Trinity, Canton            | Sts Constantine & Helen, Reading  |
If you do not yet have a Parish Youth Safety Administrator (PSYA) or if your PYSA has changed, please fill out the following: https://tinyurl.com/GOMoPYSAadmin

**GOYA ATHLETICS:** For parishes who will be participating in the upcoming GOYA Tournaments, the parish must be able to show that:

1) The Parish Contract must signed/submitted to Praesidium Inc.
2) The Parish Youth Safety Administrator (PYSA) is in place.
3) The PYSA has to submit Youth Worker info to Praesidium to complete the screening and training portions.
4) The Parish Priest and GOYA Advisor* must register here: https://tinyurl.com/Registration-Clergy-Advisors (They will agree to see that the above 3 points are met.) If you registered as a “Chaperone” and paid, your account will be credited if it has not already been credited. *This Registration is good for all Clergy, Presvyteras, Diakonisas, 2 GOYA Advisors per parish, all paid Youth Workers/Pastoral Assistants.

Thank you for reading through this lengthy letter and following up to see that your parish becomes complaint and for giving of your time and talents to help protect our children and youth.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please email: youthsafety@pittsburgh.goarch.org (preferred) or call: 412.621.8543.

Yours in serving His youth,

Rhea Ballas
Metropolis Youth Safety Administrator
Y²AM Director

Register. Train. Screen.