DECREE

PROMULGATING THE REVISED "POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN"

WHEREAS children and youth are a treasure of incalculable worth, who hold within themselves the bright promise of the future;

Whereas the Lord entrusts these children and youth firstly to their parents, but also to the Church and to society as a whole for their wholesome upbringing, nurturing, and development;

Whereas the protection of children and youth is a sacred trust given to us all by God, and is of utmost importance to the clergy, religious, and laity of the Diocese of Erie;
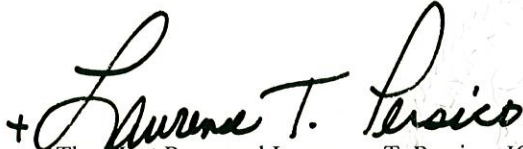
Whereas policies for the protection of children and youth, as well as vulnerable adults, must be regularly revised in light of the changing nature of our society, the application of new laws, and developments in technology;

THEREFORE, in accord with the norm of canon 7 of the *Code of Canon Law* and by virtue of this Decree, I hereby promulgate the March 2018 revised **Policy for the Protection of Children** as particular law for the Diocese of Erie. All parishes, agencies, primary and secondary schools, and other Catholic entities or groups in the Diocese are hereby obliged to observe and follow this policy in its totality. All previous editions of the aforementioned policy are hereby abrogated.

FURTHERMORE, this revised **Policy for the Protection of Children** is to be read and understood in conjunction with the 1983 *Code of Canon Law* of the Universal Church and with the updated *Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests and Deacons* already established in 2006 as particular law for the United States of America.

FURTHERMORE, I hereby declare that the March 2018 revised **Policy for the Protection of Children** will take effect and enter into force on July 1, 2018, all things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery
of the Diocese of Erie
on this 16th day of March, 2018

+ *Laurence T. Persico*
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

Christopher J. Singer
The Reverend Christopher J. Singer, JCL
Chancellor