



Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Office of the Bishop

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March 10, 2021

Mr. Thomas Ponchak
433 Sycamore Street
Westfield IN 46074

Re: The Encounter School of Ministry

Dear Tom,

God bless your work and health!

I am sorry it has taken so long for you to receive a written response from me. But with this letter, I welcome your establishing and working with The Encounter School of Ministry here in our diocese. I know well that new endeavors present their challenges, so I will keep you in prayer. Now and then, keep me posted on your progress.

Per our conversation, I am confident that you will observe our diocesan Safe Environment trainings and protocols with regard to minors, if indeed you sponsor events that include them.

You are probably already familiar with people in our diocesan Evangelization, Education, and Catechetical departments. You are welcome to touch base with them if needed, but it may be more important to know that they will recognize you as a co-worker and not a competitor. I'm happy to reaffirm this with them. I don't want to limit the Holy Spirit by being any more prescriptive than that!

I trust that this letter will be helpful to you. If you have further questions, I pledge to expedite my next responses to you.

In Christ's peace,

Most Reverend Timothy Doherty, STL, PhD
Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana