

September 28, 2022

Ven. Chariton the Confessor ☩ *Holy Martyr Vatslav*

Dear Vladyka, fathers, brothers, and sisters,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

¶ In my newly-assumed position of Diocesan Background Check Administrator, I have little to report. This is a good thing: when there *is* something to report about background checks, it's usually because there's a problem. Please continue to contact me for background checks on your church school teachers, youth workers, adult altar servers, readers, and anyone else needing a background check.

¶ I do want to use the occasion of my taking on this position as an opportunity to do a bit of clean-up on our database. As you may or may not know, we repeat background checks on everyone needing them every 3 years. You could easily be unaware of it, because it's done automatically once anyone's in the system. But since people move, leave parishes, or just move out of the positions that require them to have background checks (especially as the recent COVID years have reconfigured many church schools), we are almost certainly repeating background checks on a fair number of people who no longer need them. If I could get from each parish a list of clergy (major and minor), adult servers, church school teachers, choir directors, and youth workers, I could cross-check that with the list currently in our database. This will help to get background checks for those who need them and may not have gotten them, and also allow me to mark as inactive those who no longer need background checks.

¶ Keeping up on background checks is hardly an exciting aspect of Church life. But being diligent in it is still something that we can make an offering to God's Church and thus to God himself, if we approach it in that spirit. I thank those of you who've already contacted me, and I thank the rest of you in advance for your help and attention.

Glory to God for all things!

Respectfully submitted,

Presbyter Joel Neyer Brady
Holy Apostles Orthodox Church, Lansing NY
(570) 251-1963 ☩ jnbrady@protonmail.com