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### **Policy Avoiding the Use of 15-Passenger Vans**

While authorities and safety organizations have not stated that 15-passenger vans are inherently dangerous, published information raises questions when considering whether to purchase or rent a 15-passenger van. In cautious concern, the Diocese of Austin adopts the following policy.

- I. Parishes and schools should not purchase or rent 15-passenger vans.
- II. Existing 15-passenger vans owned by parishes and schools should be phased out. If a parish or school currently owns a 15-passenger van, it should seek to replace it with another type of vehicle.
- III. Appropriate vehicles for transporting parishioners, youth, or students include passenger vehicles, chartered buses (large or small), multifunction school activity buses, and school buses.
- IV. Schools should note that Texas law imposes certain requirements on schools when transporting schoolchildren; which, in part, applies to Catholic schools (14 TAC §14.51-.53 and Chap. 34, Education Code).
  - A. Schools should verify that their school buses satisfy Texas School Bus Specifications.