

### Safe Environment Program

The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops requires dioceses and eparchies to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, volunteers and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people.

The children's education program consists of age-appropriate lessons built upon the Church's teaching that "the human body shares in the dignity of the image of God" (CCC364). That dignity leads us to foster in every person the belief and awareness that as a person of God they are deserving of love and respect. Because dignity is a gift given by God at birth, abuse of all kind is harmful to that dignity.

Children being among the most vulnerable require us to protect that dignity. Thus, consistent with diocesan policy, (name of parish) will conduct safe environment training as part of the religious education curriculum to be held (dates).

A parent meeting will be held on (date) to provide an opportunity to review the safe environment materials.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I give my consent for my child(ren) to participate in the Safe Environment training program.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I do not give my consent for my child(ren) to participate in the Safe Environment training program. On the day this lesson is presented, my child will not attend religious education class.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the parent class and make my decision at that time. I understand that without written parent consent, my child may not attend religious education class on the day this lesson is presented.

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Signed (Parent/Guardian)

Date

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Signed (Parent/Guardian)

Date