

August 6, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Parents and other caring adults want to protect children from those who might harm them, but no child can be supervised every moment of the day. Our Faith Formation program will be offering training designed to help your child recognize unhealthy relationships, appropriate ways to reduce the likelihood of being abused, and how to get help from others. This training will help your child recognize his or her value as a person created in the image and likeness of God who is deserving of love and respect. It will teach your child age-appropriate ways he/she can reduce the likelihood of being sexually abused and ways to get help from others.

This training is a response to the mandates of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People: Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal* regarding the sexual abuse of children. Our Diocese is incorporating a safe environment training program called **Circle of Grace**, used by about ¼ of the dioceses in our nation. Human Trafficking will continue to be taught in Grade 7. Parents are encouraged to attend this trafficking session with their children.

All training sessions for Grades 1-11 will be held Wednesday, October 30, 2019 during their regular class time and conducted by one of the catechists. Parents of children who do not participate in the training for any reason will receive a resource packet designed to help parents/guardians educate their children on these important issues.

Please be aware that your child(ren) will participate in this training unless we receive a signed, written notice of your refusal. Refusals made by email or phone will not be accepted. For your convenience, a permission/refusal form is included on the reverse side of this letter. We must receive your refusal at least 3 days before the session date.

Sincerely,

Fr. Otto Bucher, O.F.M. Cap
Pastor

-----PLEASE CLIP AND RETURN THIS HALF PAGE FOR ALL REFUSALS-----

Name of Child _____

Grade _____

Grade _____

Grade _____

Grade _____

_____ Yes, I would like my child to participate in the above listed safe environment training session for their grade. (**Not required to return this slip if you answer “Yes.”**)

_____ No, I do not want my child to participate in the above listed safe environment training session. *I understand that if I refuse to allow my child to participate in this training session, I will receive a resource packet from the parish to help me educate my own child regarding these important issues.*

Parent / Guardian Signature _____ Date _____
