

# Diocesan Safe Environment Program

## **Introduction**

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002, requires the parish or school to provide formation for children in the areas of safety and the integrity of their person. Our philosophy is to directly involve parents in the formation of their children. In addition to a classroom presentation of safety issues, adapted for different grade levels, parents will receive materials to help guide their own discussions with their children.

This program accomplishes these goals in two ways:

- (1) Parents will receive materials on teaching children about the issues of safety. This will take the form of two information sheets from a nationally recognized center on child safety, along with additional materials incorporated into the parent's letters.
- (2) Lesson plans are included with this program for both parish and school that teach children their role in maintaining a safe environment. The lesson plans are arranged for younger children, older elementary students and high school students.

**This program is mandatory for all Parish Religious Education programs and Catholic schools in the Diocese of Harrisburg.**

During the initial year of the program, all children and young people in the respective grade levels will receive the classroom instruction, and all parents will receive the safety information. In subsequent years, the primary lesson is directed to students in first grade, the intermediate lesson is directed to students in fifth grade, and the high school lesson for students in ninth grade. Parent information will also follow this pattern.

## **Program Materials**

Information sheets: "Know the Rules" and "Questions & Answers"\*\*\*

Sample parent letter for the initial introduction of the program

Primary Grades (1-4): Lesson plan for CCD or school

Parent letter & info sheets

Intermediate Grades (5-8): Lesson plan for CCD or school

Parent letter & info sheets

High School: Lesson plan for CCD or school

Parent letter & info sheets

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