



TEMPLATE FOR LETTER TO PARENTS

Date

Dear Families,

Keeping our children safe is an important component of our parish faith formation programs. The Diocese of Syracuse has introduced a safe environment training program entitled *Circles of Care*. This training program strengthens our commitment, as outlined in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, to train and educate our children and youth.

In a letter to parish Catechetical Leaders, Bishop Cunningham writes:

This curriculum, originally developed by the Diocese of Manchester, has been adapted by the Diocese of Syracuse to address age appropriate personal safety issues for children and youth in the context of Catholic moral teaching. This training will now replace the awareness training that the diocese had been using since 2004.

The content of the program can be viewed at: www.syrдио.org. Enter *Circles of Care* in the Search box to connect with the site. Or, you might like to meet with me to review the material. Call or email and we will find a time that is mutually convenient.

If you prefer that your child not participate in this training, an opt-out form is provided. Only one form per family is required. Please return the form before your child's scheduled training date. Then, if you wish, you may download the lessons from the website and present the material to your child at home.

Date(s) for Circles of Care for 2013/14:

Since *Circles of Care* provides training for each age/grade level, it will be offered each year and you will be notified before the training sessions each time. Working together, we will do all that we can to ensure that our children and youth realize that they are surrounded by all of us who comprise their Circles of Care.

Signature and contact information of the parish Catechetical Leader/Pastor

