

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 1, 2018

My Dear Friends:

Following the adoption of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002, the Diocese of Syracuse has worked diligently in protecting children, youth and vulnerable adults in our community. I am grateful to the thousands of employees and volunteers who have cooperated with the Safe Environment program mandates.

In keeping with the guidelines outlined in the Charter and Essential Norms for the Protection of Children and Young People, Article 12, I am happy to renew the Diocese's continued commitment for the following Safe Environment programs. The approved trainings are in accord with Catholic moral teaching and they meet the diocesan standards in training objectives.

Circles of Care

Circles of Care is presented annually to all students Pre-K through 10th grade enrolled in parish-based Faith Formation programs to provide age-appropriate materials on how children and youth can keep themselves safe.

Child Lures is the chosen Safe Environment program for all diocesan Catholic school students in Pre-K through Grade 6. The training is to help ensure the personal safety of children through increased awareness, education, advocacy and action and to prevent all forms of child abuse by teaching how to recognize, interrupt and report inappropriate behaviors and situations.

"*NetSmartz*" is the Safe Environment program used for diocesan Catholic school students in Grade 7 – 12; local experts are also invited from the community to speak on topics including digital literacy and ethics; inappropriate content; online privacy; sexting; and cyber bullying. The mission of the training is to teach students about internet safety and prepare kids to be better digital citizens.

"*Protecting God's Children*" for Adults (® provided by VIRTUS ® National Catholic Services) is the initial Safe Environment training for adults in the Diocese of Syracuse. The training teaches the signs of child sexual abuse, the methods and means by which offenders commit abuse, and steps one can use to prevent child sexual abuse.

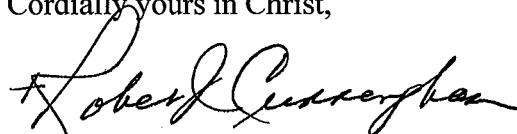
September 1, 2018

Page 2.

“Entrusted to Protect, Dedicated to Restore” is the Safe Environment recertification training. This training was produced by the diocese in 2013 and it provides ongoing awareness for the prevention of child sexual abuse by sharing real situations that occurred within our own diocese. The training identifies and reinforces the prevalence of sexual abuse; behaviors and grooming techniques of predators; and what a person should do if there is suspicion or evidence of abuse.

The Diocese of Syracuse has made great strides in prevention of child sexual abuse. However, we constantly face new challenges and must remain vigilant in our efforts. Thank you for your efforts and your commitment to keeping our children, youth and vulnerable adults safe. I ask for your ongoing prayers as we continue together to protect all of God’s children.

Cordially yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Cunningham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Most Reverend Robert J. Cunningham
Bishop of Syracuse