

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

Enclosed you will find information enabling you to inform your children about personal safety and safe environments. You are receiving this packet because your child missed the Safe Environment Training Session that was offered at your child's school or religious education program.

The bishops of the United States, in *The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* promulgated in 2003, mandated that all children enrolled in Catholic schools and religious education programs be in-serviced in Safe Environment programs.

*Diocese/eparchies will establish "safe environment" programs. They will cooperate with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and training for **children, youth**, parents, ministers, educators, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children.*

Article 12

Dioceses have also been mandated to supply parents whose children did not attend such programs with information so that the training can be accomplished at home. You will find this training information from the diocese enclosed.

We strongly urge you to read the enclosed information and talk to your child/youth about the importance of personal safety. The Diocese of Erie, our parishes and schools, take their responsibility to in-service every child very seriously and are doing all that is possible to ensure that your children are safe. Please help us in this effort by sharing the age-appropriate information with your child at home.

You will also find with this information the **Parental Option Form**. Please complete this form and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible so that our inservicing records may be completed.

We appreciate your efforts in helping to create safe environments for your children - and for all of God's children!

In Christ's peace,