Insert letterhead here

XX/XX/XXXX

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

The bishops of the United States, in *The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* promulgated in 2003 and recently revised in 2018 mandate that all children enrolled in Catholic schools and religious education programs receive Safe Environment training.

*Diocese/eparchies will maintain “safe environment” programs. They are to be conducted cooperatively 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 the training can be accomplished at home. 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. Enclosed you will find information enabling you to educate your children about personal safety and safe environments

 Also enclosed is the ***Option Form***. **Please sign and return the Option Form to us in a timely manner, as it is required for our records.**

 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 train 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.

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

In Christ’s peace,

Revised: December, 2018