



## DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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Safe Environment

*“We need to see each child as a gift to be welcomed, cherished and protected...”*

Pope Francis

### April – National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Every April, child and youth serving organizations participate in Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is an opportunity to highlight the ongoing importance of protecting minors.

The Diocese of Sacramento is committed to creating a safe environment for children and young people:

- The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* was established by the USCCB in June of 2002. It is a comprehensive set of procedures for addressing allegations of abuse.
- The *Charter* calls for annual audits of dioceses to ascertain compliance with the *Charter* by the bishop and his diocese. Annual audits have been conducted since 2003.
- The Diocese of Sacramento has been in compliance with all audits since 2003.
- For the 2017-2018 audit period, over 15,000 adults completed background checks and safe environment training for the Diocese of Sacramento.
- For the 2017-2018 audit period, over 30,000 children were trained in Circle of Grace. Through this program, children are taught to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional and spiritual boundaries.