



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

2110 Broadway • Sacramento, California 95818 • 916/733-0200 • Fax 916/733-0215

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 16, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ:

Children and young people hold a special place in all of our hearts. We need to do all we can to protect them. To that end, the Diocese of Sacramento requires all adults who have contact with minors in our schools, parishes and diocesan programs to complete training about child abuse awareness, prevention and reporting. The Diocese of Sacramento also requires all parishes and schools to provide personal safety lessons to all enrolled students.

The program in use by the Diocese of Sacramento to train all clergy, religious, employees and volunteers is *Safe Haven*. *Safe Haven* training is offered through Catholic Mutual Group. *Safe Haven* is a 3 part video series, which identifies real-life abuse and neglect situations that volunteers and employees may encounter. The training addresses important topics such as pornography, grooming techniques, social media interaction, and boundary violations. The training also covers the different types of abuse and neglect. *Safe Haven* must be renewed every 3 years.

The program in use by the Diocese of Sacramento to educate children and youth is *Circle of Grace*. *Circle of Grace* was developed by the Archdiocese of Omaha. It serves the dual purpose of educating and informing youth about the value of positive relationships with God and others. Through the *Circle of Grace* program, adults assist children and youth to recognize that each of us lives within a Circle of Grace that holds our very essence in body, mind, heart, and soul. Children and youth are taught to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, and spiritual boundaries; recognize when boundary violations are about to occur; and demonstrate how to take action when boundaries are threatened or violated. These lessons are taught yearly.

May the mercy and wisdom of God continue to keep us vigilant and guide our efforts to prevent the abuse of children and youth in the Church and society.

Respectfully,

+Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento