



Diocese of Worcester  
Office of the Bishop  
49 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

June 1, 2021

My dear friends in Christ,

Article 12 of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children & Young People, issued in 2005 and reissued in 2011, calls for a Safe Environment program for each diocese in the United States. In 2008, the Diocese of Worcester published “A Safe Environment Curriculum – Grades 1 – 8” and “A Safe Environment Curriculum – Grades 9 – 12.” However, much has happened since that publication and many of the resource materials are no longer available.

This letter serves as official notice that the Diocese of Worcester is adopting *Circle of Grace*, a curriculum developed by the Archdiocese of Omaha. This curriculum has been adopted by many dioceses in New England and throughout the country. As of July 1, 2021, *Circle of Grace* will be the mandatory safe environment curriculum for children and youth in all Catholic schools and religious education programs in the Diocese of Worcester.

Our diocesan Office of Religious Education will oversee the implementation of this curriculum and will be happy to answer any questions you may have about this important responsibility we have to promote and safeguard the dignity of the young people in our care.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, S.T.D.  
Bishop of Worcester