January 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

Following the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth* as adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in June 2002 and revised in 2013, the Diocese of Springfield reaffirms our commitment to creating a safe environment within the Church for children and youth. In Article 12 of the Charter, the following is found:

*“Dioceses/eparchies are to maintain ‘safe environment’ programs which the diocesan/eparchial bishop deems to be in accord with Catholic moral principles. 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, volunteers, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people.’”*

The programs for children consist of the following:

* + “SEED: Safe Environment Every Day,” a training program and curriculum for children in elementary grades.
	+ “Child Lures,” a training program used with children in our Catholic schools and their parents.
	+ “Called to Protect for Youth,” a training program developed by Praesidium, Inc., for youth in middle school grades, with additional lesson plans for high school students.
	+ “Seven Steps for Protecting Our Children” and other print and DVD resources for parents, guardians and families.
	+ Additional resources found on the Diocesan website [www.diospringfield.org](http://www.diospringfield.org) under the Child and Youth protection heading, or <http://diospringfield.org/Ministries/child-youth-protection/>

Jesus said, “Let the children come to me.” Join me in our efforts to make sure that all children who come to Christ in our churches, schools and organizations do so in an environment that is safe, holy and respectful for them.

I formally promulgate the above Safe Environment training programs provided by the Office of Counseling, Prevention, and Victim Services.

In Christ,

Most Rev. Mitchell T. Rozanski
Bishop of Springfield