



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

June 1, 2008

My dear friends in Christ,

The bishops of the United States enacted the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in June, 2002. Since that time, we have worked vigorously in our diocese at meeting all its specific objectives. Along with background screening of employees and volunteers, a great deal of effort has been directed toward the education of adults in identifying signs and symptoms of abuse, as well as learning ways to keep children safe. That education has also involved the young people in our pastoral care and their parents.

This letter serves as official notice that the Diocese of Worcester has developed specific curricula for elementary and secondary school students, which provide a framework for this education. The use of "A Safe Environment Curriculum – Grades 1 – 8" and "A Safe Environment Curriculum – Grades 9 – 12" is mandatory for our Catholic schools.

The same curricula are mandatory for children and youth who participate in parish religious education programs. We are aware that most of the children and young people in these programs attend public schools where many of the standards of these curricula are met. By implementing diocesan curricula in parish programs, we seek to reinforce and, where appropriate, enrich elements that already exist in the various public school curricula.

Our diocesan Office of Religious Education, which has been instrumental in the development and support of these curricula, would be happy to answer any questions you may have about this important responsibility to respect and promote the dignity of the young people in our care.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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