



April 1, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee is committed to creating environments that foster our children and young people to live, learn, and grow in their faith. We recognize the importance of complying with the *USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. As stated in the *Charter*, each diocese is required to create a "safe environment program" for all children and young people participating in parishes and schools of that diocese.

Since 2005, the children and youth in our Catholic schools and religious education programs have been receiving lessons regarding how to recognize behaviors or situations that make them uncomfortable and how to react when they feel unsafe. These lessons serve to provide the framework to develop the language and skills to start the conversation between children and adults on safety.

Starting July 1, 2020, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee will be providing the *Circle of Grace* curriculum created by the Archdiocese of Omaha for use in our parishes and schools. As the Archbishop of Milwaukee, I approve and promulgate the use of the *Circle of Grace* curriculum in our parish religious education programs and our Catholic schools.

The grade level safe environment lessons from *Circle of Grace* are conducted, in conjunction with our adult safe environment training program that requires all adults to be trained in how to recognize the signs of child abuse and neglect, maintain appropriate boundaries with minors, and how to respond when an adult suspects abuse or misconduct.

I am pleased to report that these lessons are working to help start conversations in our parishes, schools, communities, and homes on how we can work together as Catholics and members of the larger communities we serve to prevent child abuse.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Jerome E. Listecki". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki
Archbishop of Milwaukee

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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