



BISHOP KENNY
1952
HIGH SCHOOL

Wednesday, October 11, 2023
Feast of Our Lady of La Leche

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Out of concern for all God's people and in response to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, we employ a program for the safe environment education of our young people. We encourage you to have a conversation with your child regarding the Circle of Grace program.

Circle of Grace is integrated into the high school religious education curriculum throughout the Diocese of Saint Augustine. **Circle of Grace** aims to equip our young people to understand their own (and other's) dignity in mind, body, and spirit. Classes will take place beginning October 12 and continue through the following week.

What is a Circle of Grace?

The Catholic Church teaches that God has created each of us as unique and special. Genesis 1:27 tells us that we are created "male and female in God's image" and that God saw this as "very good." In that goodness, we are meant to respect ourselves and everyone else as persons created and loved by God.

God intends our relationships in life to be experiences of divine love. Respectful, nurturing, loving relationships increase our understanding of our own value and help us to love others.

Understanding this can help them to protect the special person they are and to be respectful of others.

Adults, especially parents, as they strive to provide a **safe and protective environment**, hold the responsibility to help children and young people understand and respect their own dignity and that of others. A truly **safe and protective environment** is one where children and young people recognize when they are safe or unsafe and know how to bring their concerns, fears, and uncertainties to the trusted adults in their lives.

How is the Circle of Grace Program different from other protection programs?

According to research, one in four girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused by age eighteen. Many protection programs focus on "stranger danger"; however, up to ninety percent (90%) of the time the perpetrator of abuse is known to the child or young person such as a relative or family friend. **Circle of Grace** goes beyond just protection by helping children and young people understand the sacredness of who they are and how to seek help through their relationships with trusted adults.

What are the topics of the high school curriculum?

Grades 9-12 curriculum is formatted to be teach designated lessons to the identified grade. We encourage you to have a conversation with your youth about these important lessons below:

9th Grade – When Boundaries are Challenged

10th Grade – Levels of Intimacy and Influence

11th Grade – Social Media: Being Savvy and Safe

12th Grade – Love and Theology of the Body

A grade-level parent bulletin from the Circle of Grace curriculum is included with this correspondence.

Should you have any questions regarding this program, or the lessons delivered in the Religion classroom, please reach out to your child's Religion teacher or to us.

In Christ,



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