



DIOCESE OF AMARILLO

Safe Environment Office

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Diocese of Amarillo has instituted the Safe Environment Program for Children and Young People titled: *“Right Relationships”* to all of our parishes, as part of Safe Environment curriculum in compliance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – *“Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People”*.

Please note that no other Children/Minor Safe Environment program other than *“Right Relationships”* is authorized unless approved, in writing, by the Safe Environment Office. Any other programs, videos, handouts, etc. are not authorized and are to be disposed of accordingly.

This program was developed by the Office of Safe Environment of the Diocese of Salt Lake City, who generously gave us permission to use this program. *“Right Relationships”* promotes and models safe environment principles and teaches children and minors to recognize and respond to relationships that are not “right.”

“Right Relationship’s” lesson plans are fairly easy to follow. The curriculum is interactive between the catechist and those students present. It requires following the lesson plan and specifically the designated “CORE” lesson and supplementing it with any additional lessons that might be therein.

The *“Right Relationship”* includes five lesson plans, segment I *“Know the Rules”*, segment II *“Rules & Boundaries”*, segment III *“Respect and Trust”*, segment IV, *“Communication”*, and segment V *“Unconditional Love”*. These lesson plans can be used to supplement previous lessons or may be used as a standalone lesson. All lesson plans may be adapted to the particular circumstances of the classroom.

Each program has the Spanish Language “CORE” component. Age and grade level appropriate materials, handouts, instructions, dialogue, etc., are available on the Amarillo Diocese’s website under the Safe Environment: www.amarillodiocese.org. Simply run copies of whatever forms are needed for your particular class.

It is the Policy of the Diocese of Amarillo that “October is Safe Environment Month” and every child and minor entered in diocesan/parish/ catholic school programs must attend Safe Environment Training. This must be documented on the “Student Attendance Sheet – Safe Environment Training” and the “Parish Training Report” and forwarded to the Safe Environment Office, 1800 North Spring Street, Amarillo, TX79107, by November 15th and supplemented with additional reports as needed by the parish to ensure full compliance.

Parents who Opt-out must sign the Opt-out form and be provided with the age appropriate safe environment materials *“Right Relationships”* for their child and noted on the Opt-out form. **The PASTOR and only the PASTOR are authorized to sign the Opt-out form with an explanation as to why the parent chose to opt-out.** The signed Opt-out forms will be sent with the parish Safe Environment Reports to the Diocesan Safe Environment Office.

Thank you for your past participation in the Safe Environment Program and we ask for your continued support as we implement this curriculum in your parishes and schools.

Dr. Blaine Westlake

Director of the Safe Environment Office,
Diocese of Amarillo
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