

Circle of Grace Children's Program

Dear Parent,

The Diocese of Madison takes very seriously its commitment to protecting children by every means available. This includes helping young people to better understand their intrinsic dignity and worth as children of God and to navigate some of the dangers our culture throws at them.

To that end, age-appropriate resources are presented annually to all children and youth in diocesan catechetical programs. In the coming weeks, your child will participate in such a lesson from the "Circle of Grace" program.

The lessons are age-appropriate and are designed to help children develop the vocabulary and boundary distinctions necessary to ensure their health and safety. You may want to preview the lesson your child will be taught. You are also most welcome to attend the class with your child. You can find the grade-specific lessons on the diocesan website at www.MadisonDiocese.org/cog-lesson-plans (password for the webpage is: COGMadison)

However, we also understand and support the role of parents as the primary educators of their children, and recognize that some parents may choose to present this instruction themselves to their own children. If you would like to do this and "opt out" of the classroom opportunity, please complete and return the provided opt-out form. This helps us hold ourselves accountable as a Diocese to the integrity of our efforts, as well as helping us improve our efforts where necessary.

You may want to remind your children that no one should approach or touch them in a way that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. If someone does, they should immediately tell you.

Parents are encouraged to visit the diocesan website above for links to additional valuable resources aimed at keeping your children safe.

If you have any questions about the "Circle of Grace," please feel free to contact me or the diocesan Office of Safe Environment (OSE@MadisonDiocese.org).

Sincerely,

Callie Meiller, Principal