

August 30, 2010

Dear Parents,

I am writing about a very important issue for our youth, and I encourage you to read this letter. It concerns the children of our parish who are involved in any of our programs or ministries.

The bishops of the United States have asked that every parish conduct annual safe environment training for all children in their parish who are involved in parish sponsored programs. This training is designed to help children understand what abuse is and to provide them with necessary skills to prevent their being a victim of abusive behavior. In addition to the children, paid staff, educators and volunteers who work with children in the parish have background checks and are required to attend safe environment training. This training is motivated by a deep desire to ensure that all our children experience a safe environment free of any abuse. Teaching children and adults what a safe environment is and what they can do to create that environment is essential.

The training will consist of an age appropriate video and a discussion about the video. Appropriate materials will be handed out and, according to the age groups, reviewed by the presenter.

Safe Environment training will be offered on the following dates:

Parents can preview all movies on Thursday, September 16, at 6:30 PM. Large meeting room

Youth in all the formation programs will be trained unless we receive an opt-out form from parents, on the following dates:

Sunday, September 19, at 7:00 PM for Life Teen teens at Life Night

Sunday, November 7 – Generations of Faith families (during GOF)

Wednesday, December 8 – Edge middle school youth (during Edge)

During all three sessions, parents are welcome to take the training with their children.

Three movies will be shown, one for ages 4 to grade 1, one for grade 2 to grade 5, and one for grade 6 to grade 12.

Whether your children have attended one of the above programs once or many times, we strongly encourage you to make sure your children are present for this training. Review is always good. Whereas there are many aspects of the Church's teaching about the goodness of our sexuality that we do not have the time to cover in these training sessions, it is important to know how to maintain a safe environment.

As parents you have two options in this regard. One is to ensure that your children are present for this training. The second is to sign the enclosed waiver and return it to the rectory office. In signing this, you are saying that you knew about the training and elected not to have your children participate OR that they will receive training in another way (i.e. through the Catholic school, at home, etc.). I respect your right as a parent to choose. I sincerely hope that you will also respect our desire to ensure that every child involved in activities at the Cathedral is safe and knows what to do in the event of an abusive action.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call and visit with Judy Hasenohrl, Assistant Safe Environment Coordinator, or me (342-0507). Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Michel Mulloy
Rector

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
IN THE DIOCESE OF RAPID CITY
PARENTAL OPT-OUT FORM**

I, _____, the parent of _____
(Children)

Registered in: _____
(Parish) (Town/city)

I understand that a Safe Environment Program for Children and Youth is being offered

on _____
(Date)

However, I have decided not to have my child/children attend for the following reasons:

_____ My child will attend the Safe Environment Training at the Catholic School

Signature: _____ Date: _____

FOR PARISH USE ONLY

DATE RECEIVED: _____

PASTOR/ADMINISTRATOR SIGNATURE: _____

In the event parents refuse to sign form the parish Safe Environment Coordinator/Pastor should note the circumstances of the refusal.

(This form is to be kept in the permanent files of the parish and will be made available in the event it is requested by those auditing the diocesan compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People)

Cathedral OLPH 2010/2011

Photograph/Video Release Form for Adults

Without compensation, I hereby grant permission to **Cathedral OLPH** to use and reproduce photographs/videos taken of me. These photographs/videos may be used for news, editorial, or promotional purposes in publications, electronic reproductions, and/or brochures. I hereby release the photographer/videographer, the journalists, and the publications or media outlets they represent, as well as **Cathedral OLPH**, from all claims and liability relating to said photographs/videos. Examples of photos would be GOF Gatherings, Choir Members, Youth Group Core Teams.

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (h) _____ (w) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Date: _____

Cathedral OLPH 2010/2011

Photograph/Video Release Form for Children and Youth

Without compensation, I hereby grant permission to **Cathedral OLPH** to use and reproduce photographs/videos taken of my child. These photographs/videos may be used for news, editorial, and promotional purposes in publications, electronic reproductions, and/or brochures. I hereby release the photographer/videographer, the journalists, and the publications or media outlets they represent, as well as **Cathedral OLPH**, from all claims and liability relating to said photographs/videos. Examples of photos would be 1st Communion, Confirmation, LifeNight Edge.

Child/Children Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (h) _____ (w) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Date: _____