



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Office of the Bishop
Fifty-five Joy Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403

Phone: (802) 658-6110
Fax: (802) 658-0436

January 2, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since the adoption of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002, the Diocese of Burlington has strived to develop child safety best practices and cultivate safe environments for all our children and youth in our Catholic schools, parishes, and faith-based programs. The Diocese of Burlington offers child abuse prevention training and background check procedures to ensure that all adults working with children and youth are suitable for their ministries and knowledgeable about warning signs of child abuse, reporting procedures and prevention measures. Every adult who undergoes child abuse prevention training and screening procedures becomes a critical ally in our continued efforts to protect God's children. Alongside other (arch)dioceses throughout the United States, the Diocese of Burlington participates in an annual audit to ensure its continued excellence and compliance in accordance with all audited Articles in the *Charter*. The most recent audit found the Diocese of Burlington in compliance with all audited Articles within the *Charter*.

The Diocese of Burlington uses the following safe environment training programs: *Safe and Sacred* by Proud to Protect, Inc. to train all clergy, religious, employees, and lay volunteers who have regular contact with children and youth in the Diocese; *Circle of Grace* to educate all children and youth in parish religious education programs and Catholic schools. I hereby declare these safe environment training programs to be in accord with Catholic moral principles and I am pleased to approve them for continued use.

The Diocese of Burlington has made great strides in child abuse prevention, detection, and intervention efforts, and each day we are called by Christ to do even more to keep our children safe from abuse and neglect. May we all continue to prioritize the well-being and safety of the children and youth entrusted to our care, and may we avoid complacency in fulfilling our sacred promise to protect them. As this is an effort of the entire Diocese of Burlington, I am thankful for your support and commitment to this mission.

May God bless and guide us in the vital task of safeguarding all children and youth.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne, D.D., S.L.D.
Bishop of Burlington