

**A Letter To Parents from The Most Reverend Myron J Cotta
Providing Safe Environment Training for our Children and Young People
Diocese of Stockton**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We know that you are the foremost educators of your children and appreciate the privilege of being their teachers of our Catholic faith. We are committed to provide a safe environment for your children and strive to ensure that our Church organization protect and promote the health and happiness of your children and young people. Many crimes against children can be prevented by teaching children some basic safety skills.

Teaching safety should be a positive and rewarding experience. The risk of child abduction, exploitation and sexual abuse should be taken seriously and that just warning children will not adequately protect them. We need to teach our children good skills and safety habits to reduce the chances of being abducted or abused. Prevention education is one of the key components in a comprehensive approach to ending child victimization.

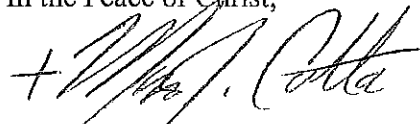
Circle of Grace is the Safe Environment program chosen by the Diocese of Stockton as the curriculum for your children and young people. It was created by the Archdiocese of Omaha and is being used by 18 dioceses throughout the United States. It is an effective program to educate children and young people to participate in a safe environment, with a strong emphasis on the presence of God in their midst.

The goal of the Circle of Grace program is to educate and empower children and young people to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others. This comprehensive, interactive program promotes the integration of life long personal safety habits for children in kindergarten through 12th grade. The age appropriate materials teach youth safety skills and help build self-esteem to make children less vulnerable for abduction or sexual exploitation.

Children and young people will understand they are created by God and live in the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They will be able to describe the Circle of Grace that God gives each of us and will be able to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual and sexual boundaries.

Should you have any concerns or questions as regarding this Safe Environment curriculum, please call Linda Dillen, our Safe Environment Manager, at 209-466-0636.

In the Peace of Christ,



The Most Reverend Myron J Cotta
Bishop of Stockton