



October 2020

Dear Clergy, Principals, Parish and School Staff.

With this letter I grant permission for the following child protection materials to be used in all parishes and schools of the Archdiocese of Portland.

Praesidium Safe Environment materials

- Creating a Safe Environment with CASE for clergy, employees, and volunteers
- Armatus Online Courses for clergy, employees, and volunteers
- Called to Protect for Parents and Families
- Called to Protect for Young Children – for parish programs

Knights of Columbus sponsored programs for parents – Protecting Our Children, A Family's Response

Virtus programs and supplemental programs for Middle School and High School Students

Empowering Gods Children and Healthy Relationships (also used for youth volunteers)

Shared Hope International Program, *Chosen* – Documentary and resources on the sex trafficking of minors

Catholic Elementary Schools:

Committee for Child – *Second Step* Program and the Supplemental Unit on Child Abuse Prevention.

Praesidium - *Called to Protect for Youth* – Grade 6

I have found these materials to meet the requirements of the US Bishops Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth as well as being in line with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

The Archdiocese, parishes and schools will continue to offer opportunities for parents, children, and youth to attend these education sessions on an annual basis.

Clergy, employees, and volunteers will continue to participate in these training courses as outlined in the Archdiocese of Portland Child Protection Policy.

Children and youth can receive the safe environment training in a distance learning format when meeting in person is not possible. In these cases, all child protection measures that are required during in person classes should be observed in digital sessions as well. Please review the document on *Distance Learning for Minors in Parishes* or the *Department of Catholic Schools Distance Learning Handbook*. In addition, during times of social distancing restrictions, parishes may send the lessons home for parents to do with their children, but the *Parent Information and Acknowledgement Form* needs to be sent to

the parents with the lesson plans. Request parents to return the form acknowledging the training was completed.

Your continued support of these training and education programs is critical to the protection of the children and youth of the Archdiocese of Portland. It is through this education and our dedication to responding promptly when abuse or inappropriate interaction between minors and adults occurs that we will be able to meet this challenge of keeping our young people safe.

Thank you for the hard work and dedication that you have given to protect the children and youth of our Archdiocese. I ask God to continue to bless our efforts creating a safe environment for the young.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alexander K Sample". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "A" and a long, sweeping tail.

Most Reverend Alexander K Sample
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon