July 2020

Dear Pastors, Principal, DREs and Youth Ministers,

With this letter I hereby endorse the *Empowering God’s Children - Teaching Safety* safe environment program and curriculum for all grades PreK-12 in the Diocese of Davenport. This curriculum is to be used in all Catholic schools and Faith Formation programs in the Diocese.

The Office of Safe Environment officially adopted *Empowering God’s Children - Teaching Safety* in the fall of 2018. *Teaching Safety* helps contribute to the protection of our young children as well as our high school students. *Teaching Safety* affirms that the parents and students are loved by God and all are to be respected.

I am grateful to all of our teachers and catechists who work so diligently for the safety of our children and youth. The ongoing support of the schools and parishes is a blessing to our diocese. Know that I realize the countless hours the administrators, educators, DREs and Youth Ministers put in to maintain a safe environment for all of our children. May all who minister to our youth be blessed by our loving God.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Thomas R. Zinkula
Bishop of Davenport