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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF TRENTON
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March 19, 2014
Solemnity of St. Joseph

To All Diocesan Principals and Catechetical Leaders

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Following the adoption of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in June 2002, the Diocese of Trenton has worked diligently to assure all the people, clergy and laity alike, that we comply with and continue to implement the *Charter* with dispatch and integrity.

I write today to inform you that the Diocese of Trenton is adopting a new Safe Environment Program for our children and youth. This program exceeds the requirements of the article 13 of the Charter and it will foster safe environments for children and young people. This new program, "RCL Family Life," will be the official safety program of the Diocese of Trenton and, since we need to have a unified effort here, it cannot be substituted by any other program. RCL, Family Life will be taught in all of our Religious education programs and Catholic schools. I will continue to endorse the VIRTUS, Protecting God's Children Program for Adults, as the official Safe Environment program for all of our employees and volunteers, who have significant contact with children.

Realizing that for some parishes this transition will present a financial burden, we ask that you have the implementation completed within the next three years. The Ministry of Catechesis at the Chancery is available to help with funds for those parishes for whom this would be a significant burden.

Thank you for all you do to pass on the truth of our faith, protect our children, and teach them the beauty of Catholic moral teaching.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David M. O'Connell, C.M.
Bishop of Trenton