

Circle of Grace Safe Environments Program “Respecting All God’s People”

Out of concern for all God’s people and in response to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Charter for the Protection of Children and Young people, we have a program for the safe environment education of children and young people supported and mandated by the Archdiocese of Detroit.

This program is called Circle of Grace, it is meant to supplement and be integrated into the excellent programs and curricula for the Formation of children and young people in our schools and religious education programs. Circle of Grace aims to equip our children and young people by arming them with the essential knowledge and skills grounded in the richness of our Faith. This program helps children and young people to understand their own (and others) dignity in mind, body and spirit.

What is Circle of Grace?

The Catholic Church teaches that God has created each of us as unique and special. Genesis 1:27 tells us that we are created “male and female in God’s image” and that God saw this as “very good.” In that goodness, we are meant to respect ourselves and everyone else as persons created and loved by God.

Adults assist children and young people to recognize God’s love by helping them to understand that each of us lives and moves in a circle of grace. You can imagine your own circle of grace by putting your arms above your head and then circle down in front of your body including side to side. This circle, front to back holds who you are in your body and through your senses. It holds your very essence in mind, heart, soul and sexuality.

God intends our relationships in life to be experiences of divine love. Respectful, nurturing, loving relationships increase our understanding of our own value and help us to love others. It is never too early to help children and young people to understand how very special they are and how relationships in life are called to be sacred. Understanding this can help them to protect the special person they are and to be respectful of others.

Adults, especially parents, as they strive to provide a safe and protective environment, hold the responsibility to help children and young people understand and respect their own dignity and that of others. A truly safe and protective environment is one where children and young people recognize when they are safe or unsafe and know how to bring their concerns, fears, and uncertainties to the trusted adults in their lives.

This lesson is about 20 minutes long and will be covered by the catechist during regular class time. The lesson talks about how God loves us and how we are to respect others yet be cautious of people of whom we do not know. Please know that after the 20 minute lesson, the regular curriculum will be covered in our time together.

If you would like a copy of the lesson plan or feel you wish to have your child opt out of this session, please contact us at your convenience and we will make the home study lesson available.

St. John Neumann
Religious Education Office

Circle of Grace Lesson Dates: Sunday, May 18, 2021, Monday, May 19, 2021 and Tuesday, May 20, 2021.