



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

FOUNDED 1885

August 17, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We want to inform you about a special class that we will be teaching as part of your child's regular religious education in the upcoming weeks. This class aims to teach children how to be safe, protect themselves and communicate any potential danger.

In the Church's desire to help you keep your children safer, the Archdiocese requires that all children and young people participating in religious education in any parish or Catholic school in the Archdiocese, receive instruction in protecting themselves and communicating potential danger to a parent or other responsible adult.

The document titled *Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal, Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, written by the Catholic Bishops of the United States, contains the following instruction: Diocese will establish safe environment programs that will "provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children." The Archdiocese of Santa Fe, in order to comply with this instruction, has mandated that programs to educate children on how to be safe, protect themselves and communicate any potential danger, be offered annually to children of all grades in Catholic schools and parish religious education and youth programs.

This instruction will take place during the regular religious education class time during the first week of school. The materials that will be used for this instruction will be available for you to see in the parish or school office. There will be an opportunity for parents to view the materials that will be used for this instruction at the orientation session before classes begin. This meeting will also include some ideas for parents to help them keep their children safe and talk effectively with them about abuse.

If for any reason, you do not want your child/children to participate in this class, please check off the box indicating that you do not allow your child to attend the class and we will honor your request. Otherwise, please check the box allowing your child to attend the safe environment class.

If you have any questions or other concerns, please contact me at 505 429-7750 or Deacon Ernest at 505 429-3422.

Sincerely,

Darlene M. Chavez

Darlene M. Chavez
Elementary Religious Education Program Coordinator