



# Circle of Grace

*Circle of Grace* educates and empowers children and young people to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others, while being taught in the framework of our Catholic faith. The Diocese provides *Circle of Grace* training to children in grades K-12 in (diocesan, parochial and interparochial) schools and in church parish schools of religion.

*Circle of Grace* lessons bring God and our Catholic beliefs into the center of child protection by teaching:

- *God's presence and assistance in difficult and confusing situations as an essential component in the Pre-K– gr. 12 curriculum.*
- *A philosophy that can be used at all times that reinforces God's real presence in our lives, respect for self and others, and skills for good decision making.*
- *The sacredness of each person and how relationships are called to be experiences of divine love.*

*Circle of Grace* contributes to the protection of our young children and affirms them as beloved children of God.

# Summary of the Key Concepts of *“Circle of Grace”*

## **God is "Present" because He desires a relationship with us**

- God is with us when we are happy and sad. God does not cause bad things to happen to us. He loves us very much.
- God desires to help us when we are hurt, scared or confused (unsafe).
- Having faith may not take away all of life’s struggles. It is because of these struggles, God promised to always " be present," providing guidance and comfort in our time of need.

## **God helps us know what belongs in our *Circle of Grace***

- Our feelings help us know about ourselves and the world around us.
- God helps us know what belongs in our *Circle of Grace* by experiencing peace, love or contentment when something or someone good comes into our *Circle of Grace*.

## **God helps us know what does not belong in our *Circle of Grace***

- God desires to help us when we are hurt, scared or confused (unsafe).
- The Holy Spirit prompts (alerts) us that something does not belong in our *Circle of Grace* by giving us “a funny or uncomfortable feeling” that something is not safe. This feeling is there because God wants us to be safe.

## **God helps us know when to ask for help from someone we trust**

- God gives us people in our lives to help us when we are troubled or struggling with a concern.
  - God wants us to talk to trusted adults about our worries, concerns and “uncomfortable feelings” so they can help us be safe and take the right action.