Our Lady of the Valley Parish
27 Erie Ave.
Hornell, NY 14843

Date September 12, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our Catholic tradition has always taught that the human body is sacred, and that all people are made in the image and likeness of God. The formation your children and teens receive at our parish reflects these teachings.

Because we know that our work with your children and teens is a sacred trust, we have fully implemented *The Charter and Norms for the Protection of Children and Young People* by conducting background checks on all Church employees and volunteers who work with children, teens, or vulnerable adults. The Diocese of Rochester, New York: Department of Evangelization and Catechesis requires us to also provide education about sexual abuse. Our program complements the New York State sexual abuse awareness mandate that provides for public schools to educate children and teens about sexual abuse.

Our goal is to help children and teens become more aware of situations, people or circumstances that may threaten their safety while, at the same time, reminding them that they are precious in the eyes of God. Bishop Matano is fully committed to this education.

In our parish, we be administering this program during the 2021-2022 season. All children and teens in our Faith Formation, Youth Ministry and Sacramental Preparation programs will participate in these sessions. If you would like to see an example of the content, please contact us. If you wish to have your child or teen opt out of these sessions, please send your written consent to our parish office.

We look forward to working with you to provide the safest possible environment for our children.

Peace to you all in Christ,

Father Stan

Pastor, Our Lady of the Valley Parish