Opt-Out Letter for Safe Environment Letter 2021-2022

Our Lady of the Valley Parish

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As Catholics, we believe every human person is made in the image and likeness of God, and for this reason we believe in the dignity of every person. Every person's dignity needs to be respected, and when this is not done, we believe the Body of Christ is hurt.

As part of the Diocese of Rochester's ongoing commitment to provide safe environments for children and teens, we are offering a session to all young people in our parish as part of our Safe Environment curriculum. This session will empower and educate your child to be safer in his or her daily life.

Through the lesson your child will:

- Learn about the Church's teaching on human dignity and recognize their own dignity
- Understand boundaries
- Develop a greater respect for others
- Understand how to protect himself or herself from sexual abuse
- Understand that the vast majority of adults care about and want what is best for them.

Our session is not intended to replace your important role as parent. You have the primary responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of your children. This session is designed to assist you in that responsibility by giving children information and skills through a lens of faith that you may not be able to offer them.

If you do not want your child to participate in our session, please fill out the form at the bottom of this letter. Regardless if your child participates or not, please know that the parish and the Diocese of Rochester will continue to strive to provide you with information and materials to help you educate your child in this area of faith development.

I understand that Creating a Safe Environment is being taught to fulfill one portion of the education component of the USCCB's *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.*

I DO NOT give permission for my child to participate in the Creating a Safe Environment lesson. I am opting to ensure his/her formation in this area myself, and I recognize that my child's school, parish and the Diocese of Rochester are available to provide resources to help me.

Name of Student: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____