

**SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH – BALDWINVILLE, MA  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**Prevention & Healing Department**

In response to the crisis of the sexual abuse of children by clergy in the Catholic Church, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCD) drafted a landmark document in Dallas, Texas, at its 2002 summer assembly. In this statement, the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (the Charter), the bishops recommit themselves to victims/survivors and their families and to each other in order to ensure—to the best of their abilities—that sexual abuse of minors within the Church will never happen again. A comprehensive set of procedures to address allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy, the Charter includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability, and prevention of future acts of abuse. To learn more our programs download a copy of the brochure: Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal or visit the USCCB **Office of Child and Youth Protection**.

**PROMISE TO PROTECT**

*If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church, please believe in the possibility for hope and help and healing. We encourage you to come forward and speak out. A report can be made by phone to 508-929-4363 or 508-726-2880. A report can be made by mail to: Judith Audette, LICSW; The Office of Healing and Prevention, 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609*

Our goal is to protect all our children in all environments, so that parents will be completely confident in the participation of their children in their parish, school, or in any interaction with priests or others in the Catholic Church. This approach is based on taking decisive, consistent action in an open, transparent manner.

The Diocese of Worcester has developed a “Safe Environment Curriculum” for Grades 1-8 as well as Grades 9-12. Many of the standards of these curricula are met by the public school system. **If you would like your child to attend one of the “Safe Environment Curriculum Programs”, or if you would like to attend, please let us know. You may call the rectory 978-939-8851 if you have any questions or to schedule a meeting. Otherwise, please sign and date the bottom portion of this letter and return with your child’s registration.**

The Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection of the USCCB has supplied dioceses throughout the country with resources to promote awareness. The Diocese of Worcester, as well as Saint Vincent de Paul Church have this material available and are able to use them within their own parishes. There are pamphlets and materials readily available in the CCD Parish Offices for parents to use if interested.

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**At this time I am opting-out for my child/children to attend one of the “Safe Environment Curriculum Programs” offered at St. Vincent de Paul Parish. I understand that there are pamphlets and materials readily available in both CCD Parish Offices for parents to use with their children if interested.**

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_