



Decree of Promulgation

As agreed upon by the Bishops of the United States, in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* in June 2002, each diocese will “provide education and training” about “ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children.”

With this letter, I hereby decree that the Diocese of Madison will fulfill its responsibility to educate children with regard to this important information through the program “Valuing God’s Gifts in Ourselves and Others.” The diocesan Office of Safe Environment is responsible for the establishment and monitoring of this program.

Wherefore, and in accord with all the teachings of the Catholic Church, I decree that the implementation of the program “Valuing God’s Gifts in Ourselves and Others” must take into consideration and insure that:

1. schools and religious education programs always recognize and support parents as the primary educators of their children, and support parents who choose to teach their own children, with regard to these matters;
2. the safe environment lessons for children must be available in all diocesan Catholic schools and religious education programs every year;
3. all safe environment lessons for children must be age appropriate as judged by the diocesan Office of Safe Environment;
4. parents are informed of the schedule, nature and content of the lessons planned;
5. if an alternate program is desired, approval is needed from the Office of Safe Environment prior to the use of such a program.

As Bishop of Madison, I hereby decree that the effective date for the institution of “Valuing God’s Gifts in Ourselves and Others” for all parishes and schools in the Diocese of Madison will be on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15, 2007.

Given at the offices of the Diocese of Madison, WI, on the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16, 2007.

Most Reverend Robert C. Morlino
Bishop of Madison

O F F I C E O F T H E B I S H O P

Diocese of Madison · 702 S. High Point Road · P.O. Box 44983 · Madison, WI 53744-4983

Phone: 608-821-3001 · Fax: 608-821-4552