ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON
Office of the Bishop
Fifty-five Joy Drive
South Burlington, Vermont 05403
Phone: (802) 658-6110

June 18, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Following the establishment of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in 2002, the Diocese of Burlington has remained committed to protecting the children in each of our Catholic schools, parishes, faith-based programs, and youth ministry events. To achieve full compliance with the requirements outlined in the *Charter*, the diocese offers age-appropriate child abuse prevention training for children to teach them about healthy boundaries, and the diocese also imposes strict requirements for all adults working with minors in their respective ministries. Every adult who works with minors in the diocese must undergo a verifiable background check to ensure their suitability for ministry, and each adult must also complete annual safe environment training to increase their awareness of various child safety issues. These requirements, and others outlined in the *Charter*, are put in place to ensure that we are providing safe and secure environments for children to grow in their Catholic faith. To assess compliance with the Articles of the *Charter*, (arch)dioceses and eparchies in the United States undergo an annual audit by an independent auditing firm. The most recent audit in 2026 found the Diocese of Burlington in compliance with all audited Articles of the *Charter*.

To select the programs used to train children and adults, the Diocese of Burlington takes into consideration the quality of the program, the variety of content, the ease of use, and the connection to the Catholic faith, among other parameters. The Diocese of Burlington uses the following program to train all adults who work with minors in our parishes and Catholic schools, including members of the clergy:

Virtus by National Catholic Services, LLC.

Additionally, the Diocese of Burlington permits the use of the following safe environment training programs to educate children and youth in our parish religious education programs and Catholic schools:

Circle of Grace, by the Archdiocese of Omaha;
Circles of Care, by the Diocese of Manchester;
The Theology of the Body Programs, based on "The Theology of the Body" teaching from Pope John Paul II and published through Ascension Press;
The Theology of the Body Programs, based on "The Theology of the Body" teaching from Pope John Paul II and published through Tobet Press;
and lastly, the Child Lures and Teen Lures Prevention Programs, by Rosemary Wooden Webb and Jennifer Wooden Mitchell, with Kenneth Wooden.

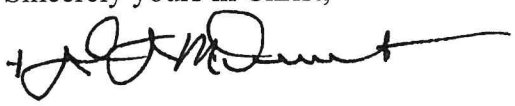
All parishes and Catholic schools in the diocese have received guidance regarding the appropriate use of these programs.

By this letter, I hereby promulgate as official diocesan policy our use of these programs for the year 2026. This letter supersedes all previous letters of promulgation.

The Diocese of Burlington always strives to follow child safety best practices, and as a result, we will continue to evaluate our safe environment programs and policies on a regular basis to ensure we are doing all that we can to provide a safe environment for all children and youth entrusted to our care. As a diocesan community, may we all continue to recognize our important role in protecting God's children in our respective ministries, and may we never cease in our efforts to help safeguard their well-being. I am thankful for your support and commitment to this mission.

May God bless and guide us in the vital task of protecting children and youth from harm.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



The Most Reverend John J. McDermott
Bishop of Burlington