

Dear Parent:

The Diocese of Buffalo is working to fully comply with all the directives of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People implemented by the U.S. Catholic Bishops in 2002. In addition to training all adult staff and volunteers that work with children, the Diocese of Buffalo is also training children in abuse awareness. The training is a way for your child to learn to recognize and respond appropriately and assertively to issues such as improper touch, tricks used by predators, and personal and internet safety. Your child will not be exposed to specific sexual language or depictions of graphic situations. A copy of the diocesan approved lesson plan for your child's age group along with more detailed information on the Safe Environment policy is available on our website at <http://www.annunciation.cc/youth-faith-formation/Safe-Environment/13> for your review.

In order to be compliant with the Diocesan policy, for the past two years we have invited Deputy Naegley from the Erie County Sheriff's Department to give a presentation to our youth. The presentation usually happens mid to late October. When the program is scheduled the date will be provided to families well in advance. Additionally, parents are encouraged to join us for these presentations.

Parents are invited to discuss the content of this lesson plan prior to its implementation with their children. You may also contact our office should you wish to learn more about this topic to better equip yourself to respond to your child's questions.

If you do NOT wish for your child to participate, please sign the release below, detach it, and return it to the YFF Office BEFORE the date of your child's instruction. An alternate educational opportunity will be provided for your child during that session.

Sincerely,

Melissa Weisenburg

Director of Youth Faith Formation

I ask that my child/children _____ be excused from attending the Safe Environment Session at Annunciation Parish in the fall. I understand that it is my right and responsibility as a parent under guidelines of the Catholic Church to do any such instruction myself.

_____ *Signature of Parent/Guardian*

_____ *Date*