

March 31, 2008

Dear Father,

Please find attached the new Formation in Christian Charity (FCC) program approved for the Archdiocese of Denver. This program was presented in much detail recently during the week of our new Safe Environment Program's kickoff. I hope that you or someone from your staff was able to attend. I am happy to meet with you or a delegate should you have any questions regarding FCC or any other aspects of the new program.

The minimum facts you should be aware of regarding FCC are:

- The new minimum requirement within the Archdiocese of Denver for children in religious education is that they will be expected to be offered classroom training in 5th and 9th Grade.
- I have included optional classroom lessons for all other grades. You are free to use these as you find appropriate.
- Program letters should be sent home to parents of children in 1st-5th grade religious education, as well as 5th, 9th and in any other grade which you present this program. These letter templates have been provided to you.
- All other grades through high school have lesson plans, but these are optional, as pastor you should decided what makes the most sense for your parish community.
- There are 2 child safety handouts, also included for you, which should be sent home with all parent letters.
- Parents should always be offered the opportunity to opt their children out of Safe Environment Training. An example of an opt-out form has been included for your convenience.
- The recently approved program titled "Called to Protect for Youth" is also available to you for any students that you deem appropriate 6th-12th grades. This is the program that Catholic Schools will be using. It is a series of 3-1hour classes which should all be taught within the same school year. Most schools in the Archdiocese will be presenting this to 6th and 9th graders on a Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule during the school year. You may choose to use this in lieu of the Formation in Christian Chastity program for these grades.
- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is now requiring the archdiocese to report on the status of all children in religious education and catholic schools regarding whether they have attended safe environment training.

- Because of the new requirements of the USCCB by May 1st of each year my office will be requiring a report from your parish, signed by you, stating how many religious education students you had during the current year; how many of these students attended safe environment training; how many children were opt-out by their parents, and if there is a discrepancy between these three numbers why, and what a plan is to address this.

Thank you for your valuable support of this program. If there is any way that I can assist you please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Christ and Mary,

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