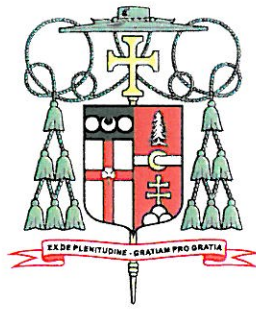


**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**



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December 2, 2014

Dear Friends in Christ,

The *2002 Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, adopted by the *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*, requires parishes and Catholic schools to provide formation for children in the areas of safety and the integrity of their persons.

The Church recognizes parents are the first and primary educators of their children. To assist parents in this important task, the Diocese of Harrisburg, as part of our Diocesan Safe Environment Program, provides resource materials for parents aimed at helping them to keep their children safe.

In addition to the materials provided to parents, a classroom lesson on key safety issues, adapted for different age levels, is taught in grades 1, 5, and 9 in our Catholic schools, parish religious education, and youth ministry programs.

This program accomplishes these goals in two ways:

1. Parents will receive materials on teaching children about the issues of safety. This will take the form of information from The *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops* entitled *Technology and Safety Through the Eyes of Faith*, a diocesan produced document entitled *Best Practices for Internet Use for Parents* and several documents from the *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children*.
2. Lesson plans are included with this program for both parishes and schools that teach children their role in maintaining a safe environment. The lesson plans are arranged for younger children, older elementary students and high school students.

The *Diocesan Safe Environment Program* is mandatory for all Catholic schools, parish religious education, and youth ministry programs in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

May the Lord abundantly bless our children and all those entrusted with their care.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronald W. Gainer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer