



## DIOCESE OF BISMARCK

520 N Washington Street  
PO Box 1137  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1137

Phone: 701.222.3035

Fax: 701.222.0269

[www.bismarckdiocese.com](http://www.bismarckdiocese.com)

February 2019

Dear Catechists,

Human sexuality is an essential element of Almighty God's gift of human life and the unique dignity each of us has from Him. Sadly, this great gift is abused by some who prey upon our children and youth in the forms of sexual abuse and misconduct.

It is always necessary that we remain alert and vigilant in protecting all children and youth entrusted to us for their Catholic education. For some years we have been using this Personal Safety Awareness manual and its curriculum to assist in imparting age-appropriate and sound teaching in our homes and classrooms. We now have two more curricula available online which are equally good as the Personal Safety Awareness curriculum. These two curricula are: Circle of Care and Child Safety.

Take the time to learn these curricula and how you might best convey the information to help our children and youth understand personal boundaries and the assertiveness skills which keep them safe.

As time goes on and some circumstances change what does not change and cannot change is our firm commitment to help our children and youth grow and mature in a safe environment. This begins in their homes and continues in our parishes and schools.

I thank our priests, deacons, and Catholic catechists in our schools and parishes for their continued dedication to all entrusted to their care. I thank our good parents for their continued support of what we do for them and their precious children.

With a promise of my daily prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

The Most Reverend David D. Kagan  
Bishop of Bismarck