

Dear Parents of High School Students,

The Diocese of San Diego is committed to providing a safe environment for all who worship, work, or participate in education and formation opportunities in our parishes and schools. The problem of child sexual abuse is a serious one. A child suffers sexual abuse somewhere in our country every thirteen seconds.

As the primary educators of your teenager, you are entrusted with the responsibility of providing appropriate information regarding how to keep your teenager safe from sexual abuse. Empowered parents can develop and maintain an environment of trust in the home that allows youth to discuss any topic, any fear, and any experience they are having. Potential abusers will avoid youth who have such an open and honest relationship with their parents because abusers depend upon secrecy to avoid suspicion.

In compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the topic of safe environment will be introduced to your teenager on _____ in the following manner:

Your teen's teacher/catechist will be showing a presentation which will cover the following topics:

- Characteristics of casual and close boundaries in relationships
- Meaning and methods of emotional grooming employed by sexual abusers
- Skills to respond to grooming techniques and to protect themselves from sexual abuse
- Reporting abuse

If you would like to preview the PowerPoint presentation it will be available through the Diocesan Website for your convenience. A copy will also be available at your teen's school or the parish Youth Ministry office.

Your teen will be told that you will continue this discussion with him/her at home. Included in this packet are materials that will help you with that conversation.