

Instructions for Teacher/ Youth Minister/ Catechist
Safe Environment Program for High School Teens
12th Grade

In compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, each Teacher, Youth Minister or catechist in the Diocese of San Diego is required to introduce the topic of safe environments to their class.

Teachers, Youth Ministers and catechists should use **only** the PowerPoint presentation provided and **should not use** life experiences or personal examples. Parents or guardians, as the primary educators of their children, have been given detailed information to continue the conversation of safe environments at home.

This introduction to the topic of safe environments should take 10-15 minutes.

Please use the following script to introduce the presentation:

“The Diocese of San Diego is committed to providing a safe environment for all of you who participate in our High Schools and Youth Ministry programs. The problem of sexual abuse is a serious one; and has even affected our church. The following presentation is to help you be better informed and more aware of the dangers of sexual abuse.”

You may then proceed to read the **note pages** that accompany each slide (be aware that some slides have no notes). If you choose to have young people read the presentation to the class then it is important to have them practice ahead of time. Remember that **no life experiences or personal examples should be shared.**

The PowerPoint presentation will cover the following topics:

- Qualities of Christian Love in forming healthy relationships
- Qualities which form abusive relationships
- Recognizing signs of sexual abuse
- Skills to protect themselves against sexual abuse

Note to teacher/catechist: If at any time a young person should report a situation of abuse, the diocesan policy for reporting suspected child abuse should be followed:

- Mandated reporters should make a report to Child Protective Services;
- Volunteers who are not mandated reporters shall report the suspected abuse to the DCM, Youth Minister or mandated reporter who will then file a report with Child Protective Services.