



JOSEPH EDWARD STRICKLAND
BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE APOSTOLIC SEE
BISHOP OF TYLER

D E C R E E

As part of the ongoing efforts to foster a Safe Environment for all of God's children in the Diocese of Tyler, the diocese annually offers a Safe Environment Program. This program includes supplemental lessons for the children in the diocese, it is offered to home schooling families as a resource, and it is intended to build upon the public school curriculum and the curriculums adopted by each of our Catholic schools.

Accordingly, I decree that Safe Environment Program for 2016-2017 will include the following:

1. Each parish, mission and other institution will observe a week of prayer from October 15-21, 2016, to encourage healing for those affected by abuse. Joining in prayer for victims and for the conversion of hearts of perpetrators is a particularly important effort in this Year of Mercy.
2. Between January and March, each formation program for minors will present the grade appropriate lesson from the approved Safe Environment curriculum.
3. Each parish, mission and other institution will observe Safe Environment Week from April 23-30, 2017, focusing attention on the important commitment by those who work or volunteer for the Church to protect children and vulnerable adults.
4. Each parish, mission and other institution will observe April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in some meaningful way, including, at a minimum, the observance of "Blue Sunday" on April 30, 2017.

I direct the Offices of Faith Formation and Ethics and Integrity to assist in providing resources to support these programs and ensuring that the appropriate information is available on the diocesan web site.

Given at Tyler, at the Diocesan Curia, under our sign and seal, and the countersign of our Chancellor, on the 21st day of the month of September, the Feast of St. Matthew, in the year of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, two thousand and sixteen.

MOST REVEREND JOSEPH E. STRICKLAND
Bishop of Tyler

Peyton Low
Chancellor

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