



## DIOCESE OF VICTORIA

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### Decree of Promulgation

As agreed upon by the Bishops of the United States, in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* in June 2002, each diocese will "provide education and training" about "ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children."

With this letter, I hereby decree that the Diocese of Victoria will fulfill its responsibility to educate children with regard to this important information through the various programs as outlined in the document, "Education of Children, Youth and Parents." The diocesan Office of Safe Environment is responsible for the establishment and monitoring of this program.

Wherefore, and in accord with all the teachings of the Catholic Church, I decree that the implementation of the program "Education of Children, Youth and Parents" must take into consideration and insure that:

1. schools and religious education programs always recognize and support parents as the primary educators of their children, and support parents who choose to teach their own children, with regard to these matters;
2. the safe environment lessons for children must be available in all Catholic schools and religious education programs every year;
3. all safe environment lessons for children must be age appropriate as judged by the diocesan Office of Safe Environment;
4. parents are informed of the schedule, nature, and content of the lessons planned;
5. if an alternate program is desired, approval is needed from the Office of Safe Environment prior to the use of such a program.

As Bishop of Victoria, I hereby decree that the effective date for the institution of "Education of Children, Youth and Parents" for all parishes and schools in the Diocese of Victoria will be on the 29th day of June 2015.

Given at the offices of the Diocese of Victoria on this 29th day of June 2015.

**Most Reverend Brendan Cahill**  
Bishop of Victoria