

ARTICLE 12
USCCB CHARTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING
Revised September 2017

All Archdiocesan Catholic Elementary and High Schools, as well as all Religious Education, Confirmation and Youth Ministry programs must establish an ongoing Safe Environment Training for their children and young people. This program is to be taught annually at each site. Archbishop José Gomes has approved the following program:

- ***Empowering God's Children and Young People***© is a K-12 Child Abuse Prevention Program created specifically for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. This program consists of a three year cycle:
 - Year One: The Five Safety Rules
 - Year Two: Boundaries and Bullying
 - Year Three: Internet Safety

This program is a vehicle through which teachers, catechists, Confirmation coordinators and youth ministers can teach children and young people the tools they need to protect themselves from those who might harm them. The program also includes “Home-Based” materials so parents and guardians can support their children and young person’s child sexual abuse prevention lessons.

- ***All Lesson plans and related materials are posted annually by July 30th***
<https://lacatholics.org/departments-ministries/safeguard-the-children/>
- It is highly recommended that all children and young people be trained as early in the school year to give them the tools they need to protect themselves as soon as possible?
- ***However,***
 - ***all training must be completed no later than April 14th***
 - ***all trainings must be reported on VIRTUS® Online no later than April 30.***

For any questions concerning the “Empowering God’s Children and Young People© Safe Environment Training” please contact Joan Vienna, Safeguard the Children Coordinator at jvienna@la-archdiocese.org

