

Goal of the Circle of Grace Program - Grades K-12

The goal of the Circle of Grace program is to educate and empower children and young people to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others.

Objectives of the Circle of Grace Program - Grades K-12

- Children and young people will understand they are created by God and live in the love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Children and young people will be able to describe the Circle of Grace which God gives each of us.
- Children and young people will be able to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual, and sexual boundaries.
- Children and young people will be able to identify all types of boundary violations.
- Children and young people will demonstrate how to take action if any boundary is threatened or violated.

Feedback from user of the program:

"Circle of Grace is so timely. Thank you! Even if the church leadership did not require it, the culture that we live in does. It is a perfect way to show that living our faith is a real adventure in the world in which we find ourselves. Faith intersects with life in the development of this program."

Sr. Judanne Stratman, O.S.F.
Director of Religious Education
St. Mary's church West Point, NE.

Outline of the Program

- Kindergarten** - What is the Circle of Grace?
The Stoplight: Feelings , Touch and Secrets
Safety Plan
- Grade 1** - What is the Circle of Grace?
The Stoplight: Feelings , Touch and Secrets
Safety Plan
- Grade 2** - What is the Circle of Grace?
The Stoplight: Feelings , Touch and Secrets
Safety Plan
- Grade 3** - What is the Circle of Grace?
Boundaries and our limits of our Circle of Grace
Action Plan
- Grade 4** - Internet Safety
- Grade 5** -Understanding the Influence of the Media
on our Circle of Grace
- Grade 6** - Circle of Grace: Pieces of the Puzzle
Safe Relationships: Putting the Puzzle Together
Boundaries: Every Piece has its Border
Safety PLAAN: When Something Doesn't Fit
- Grade 7** - Saying "No" to Disrespect: Honoring
Everyone's Circle of Grace
- Grade 8** - How to be Morally Responsible in
Today's Culture
- Grade 9** - Communion of Saints
Mary and Joseph say "Yes"
When the Circle is Broken
Action PLAAN
- Grade 10** - Recognizing and Responding to
Boundary Violations
- Grade 11** - Boundaries and Emotional Grooming
- Grade 12** - Love and the Theology of the Body

*For more program information
please contact
the Safe Environment Coordinator or
your local parish/school office*

Circle of Grace Safe Environment Training Program



*Kindergarten
through
Grade 12*

Archdiocese of Omaha

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Circle of Grace is set apart from other programs by teaching:

- God's presence and assistance in difficult and confusing situations as an essential component in its K-12 curriculum.
- a philosophy that can be used at all times as a concept that reinforces God's real presence in our lives, respect for self and others, and skills for good decision making.
- the sacredness of each person and how relationships are called to be experiences of divine love.
- beyond the "good touch-bad touch" models by addressing the whole person. Thus it is able to teach how boundary violations can occur through all of our senses.
- a holistic approach giving children and youth the skills to identify uncomfortable situations long before inappropriate touch occurs.
- children and young people to identify the "trusted adults" in their lives in addition to their parents.
- parents by informative letters, lesson handouts, and educational material.

What is the Circle of Grace?

Circle of Grace is the love and goodness of God that surrounds us and all others. It is the recognition that God is with us always and is there to help us in difficult situations. Through the Circle of Grace Program, adults assist children and youth to recognize God's love by understanding that each of us lives and moves within a Circle of Grace. Your Circle of Grace holds your very essence in body, mind, heart, soul, and sexuality. This is taught in a visual and real way by the following prayer. One can demonstrate this prayer and ponder its profound simplicity.

Imagine:

Raising your hands above your head and then
bringing your arms slowly down
keeping them outstretched.
Extending your arms
in front of you
and then behind you
embracing all of the space around you
knowing that **God** is in this space with you.
Then slowly
reach down to your feet.
This is your
Circle of Grace.
You are in it.

Because this holistic concept includes all senses it allows children and young people to identify uncomfortable situations long before inappropriate touch may occur. The Circle of Grace program teaches children and young people to seek help from a trusted adult, reinforcing God's presence in their real life struggles.

Circle of Grace is one of the few programs that has:

- an *imprimatur* and a *nihil obstat* from an Archbishop.
- each lesson correlated with appropriate Catholic teaching.
- evaluation results that show effectiveness.
- pre- and post-assessments for designated grades.
- summary evaluations that capture required information needed for the national audit.
- philosophy and goals which are consistent throughout the K-12 curriculum.
- comprehensive and self-contained materials for each grade.
- the ability to customize the program with local contact information.
- an administrator's section with all the information needed for implementation.
- a training in-service for all who use the program.
- a significantly lower cost than other programs.