



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

**D E C R E E**

Fifteen years ago, the bishops of the United States committed to the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young Persons*. Since that time, virtually everyone in the Church has become more aware of the tremendous evil of abuse of children and vulnerable adults. As bishop, I thank you for all your efforts toward reconciliation, healing, accountability, and prevention of future acts of abuse.

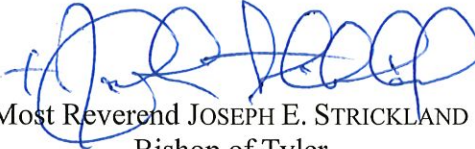
Our annual Safe Environment Program is an essential part of our ongoing efforts to foster a safe environment for all God's children in the Diocese of Tyler. As in the past, our program is supplemental to the school programs for children in the diocese. It is intended to build upon the public-school curriculum and the curriculums adopted by each of our Catholic schools. The program materials are also available for home schooling families as a resource.

Mindful of these things, I decree that Safe Environment Program for 2018-2019 will include the following:

1. Each parish, mission, and other institution will observe a week of prayer from October 21-28, 2017, to encourage healing for those affected by abuse. This occurs during October which is designated by the bishops of the United States as "Respect Life Month."
2. Between January and March, each formation program for minors will present the grade appropriate lesson from the approved safe environment curriculum. Links for the program can be found on the safe environment page of the Diocese of Tyler website.
3. Each parish, mission, and other institution will observe Safe Environment Week from January 20-27, 2018, 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 29, 2018.

I direct the Promoter of Justice to assist in providing resources to support these directives and, with the cooperation of the chancery staff, ensuring that the appropriate information is available on the diocesan web site.

Given at Tyler, at the Diocesan Curia, under my sign and seal, and the countersign of my Chancellor, on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of the month of September in the year of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, 2017.

  
Most Reverend JOSEPH E. STRICKLAND  
Bishop of Tyler

  
Peyton Low  
Chancellor

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