



Archdiocese of Seattle

New *Circle of Grace* Teaching Safety Curriculum – Faith Formation Effective July 1 for the 2023-24 School Year and beyond

What's Changing?

1. **New curriculum** *Circle of Grace* replaces *Virtus Empowering God's Children*.
2. **Resources** – leaders (those responsible for conducting lessons) will have access to the **Circle of Grace Partners website**. It is a password protected site with all the resources needed. Website not intended for parents.
3. **New schedule** – **For the 2023-24 school year the deadline will remain March 31, 2024. *After this transition year, the deadline will be in the Fall.***
4. **Training** required for all leaders (those responsible for conducting the lessons). **Training video** is available on the Partners website.
5. There is **no formal Opt-Out** form with this program. We presume that children will participate unless the parents contact the parish after receiving the general letter. Parents requesting their child(ren) be opted out must submit a written request prior to the start of the lessons.
6. **Annual Evaluations** for each grade level are provided to Faith Formation Team Lead who compiles information into a Summary Evaluation for ongoing assessment and improvement. The Summary Evaluation is returned to the Archdiocesan SEP Coordinator with other compiled forms.

What's Not Changing?

1. Curriculum is required for all grade levels K-10; optional but encouraged for grades 11 and 12. There is also an optional pre-school curriculum. Lessons and resources are also available in Spanish.
2. Catechists must account for all enrolled students per grade level for the number trained, the number opting out and the number absent from each lesson. Attendance numbers for all grades compiled by Faith Formation Team Lead onto one Recording Form for entire parish. Forms and any opt out documentation emailed to Archdiocesan SEP Coordinator no later than 2 weeks after the deadline.
3. Informational email sent to Faith Formation Team Leads each June (starting this year 😊) to give time for preparation.

Suggested Implementation in Your Location:

1. See attached **brochure** which is available on the *Circle of Grace* Partners website and has a great description of the program. In addition, the attached **Key Implementation Strategies** may be helpful.
2. See attached notice regarding **Circle of Grace Partners website secure login information**. *This is intended for leaders only and may not be shared with parents*. Please note that the materials on the website are copyrighted.
3. See attached **At-a-Glance** identifying Circle of Grace Partners website navigation.
4. See attached **Catechist Confirmation Form** and **Compiled Recording Form**.
5. Leaders watch the 2hr training video. This could be done in a group or individually at home.
6. Mail the general parent letter and “Common Questions of Parents” handout (found on the Partners website) 2-3 weeks prior to conducting the lessons.
7. Conduct the lessons for each grade level prior to the deadline (*this year March 31, 2024; moving forward it will be in the Fall*). Compile evaluations and recording numbers for each grade level onto respective forms. Email all documentation, including any opt-out requests, to Archdiocesan SE Coordinator no later than 2 weeks after the deadline date.

Please discard old forms you may have in file. Locations will receive current information/forms each June.