DECREE

In accord with Article 12 of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops regarding the protection of children, youth, and vulnerable persons, and following consultation with the Review Board and diocesan staff, I hereby decree and reaffirm that the Diocese of Evansville assumes its responsibility for compliance with and adherence to those tenets. In harmony with that, I deem that the Safe Environment programs for children and adults operative in the Diocese of Evansville are in accord with Catholic moral principles. Adult Safe Environment training programs are administered through Catholic Mutual Group.

I reaffirm the promulgation of the *Framework for Youth Protection*, and the *Records Retention Policy Pertaining to the Safe Environment Program* as particular law for the Diocese of Evansville; this is incorporated within the *Framework for Youth Protection*. Also incorporated within the *Framework for Youth Protection* is the *Policies and Procedures Regarding Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Clergy* which I have decreed separately.

Furthermore, in accord with canon 51 of the *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby decree the *Circle of Grace* age-appropriate curriculum as particular law for the Diocese of Evansville. The *Circle of Grace* curriculum shall be implemented for use in all Catholic elementary and high schools and parishes, kindergarten through high school. Since parents are the primary educators of their children, they retain the ability to opt-out if so discerned.

The provisions of this decree are effective 1 July 2025, all things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Evansville, Indiana
22 November 2024

Most Reverend Joseph M. Siegel, DD, STL
Bishop of Evansville

Dean Happe
Chancellor