



This Code of Conduct ensures a safe, healthy, and moral environment for all youth attending a school or parish religious education program within the Diocese of Sioux Falls. This Code reminds us that all persons are created with dignity and in the image and likeness of God¹. It therefore defines conduct that encourages youth to be *“imitators of God as beloved children, and walk in love”* by conforming their thoughts, words and actions to the *“mind...which is yours in Christ Jesus,”*² by following His example.

Responsibility to God: *“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”*³

- I will use the name of *God* and *Jesus Christ* with respect, and never in a careless, abusive, or angry manner
- I will reverently participate in prayer and worship
- I will faithfully represent the teachings of the Catholic Church with integrity, both in word and action
- I will show respect to the Creator by taking care of God’s creation

Responsibility to self: *“Keep on doing what you have learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me.”*⁴

- I will be mindful that God created each of us in His image and likeness
- I will be truthful, understanding, open-minded, gracious, reliable and respectful
- I will uphold and support God’s plan for our gift of sexuality
- I will promote modesty in dress, speech and action
- I will not use alcohol, tobacco and/or any other illegal drugs while serving in an appointed capacity
- I will not speak with profanities
- I will not keep weapons in my possession while functioning in my ministry role
- I will not act in a disruptive manner

Responsibility to others: *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*⁵

- I will respect the role of adult leaders, administrators, and established guidelines
- I will immediately locate and report to a responsible adult anytime I see the safety of another in jeopardy
- I will honor and respect the personal dignity and boundaries of others
- I will not use physical aggression and /or harm
- I will refrain from language that insults, intimidates, humiliates or otherwise denigrates the character of another
- I will not isolate or exclude youth from their peers
- I will not threaten or use behavior that encourages others to disobey or disrespect others
- I will not engage in inappropriate sexual behavior
- I will not disrespect or steal the property of others—personal and/or institutional
- I will not gossip, slander or use malicious speech or jokes
- I will not use sexual language or jokes that demean God’s gift of sexuality or demean the dignity of another
- I will not cheat
- I will cooperate in harmful behavior/harassment, either by encouragement or through tacit support given by my refusal to speak up
- I will promote and maintain a safe environment for peers
- I will make restitution for any damages I might cause

By signing, I acknowledge, understand and agree to abide by this Code of Conduct for Youth and Young Adults.

Youth or Young Adult Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

1: Genesis 1:26-28; 2: CCC1694; 3: Matthew 22: 36-38; 4: Philippians 4: 8-9; 5: Matthew 22: 39-40