**Sample Parent Letter with Opt-out Form**

Dear Parent:

The Diocese of Buffalo is working to fully comply with all the directives of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* implemented by the U.S. Catholic Bishops in 2002. In addition to training all adult staff and volunteers that work with children, the Diocese of Buffalo is also training children in sexual abuse awareness.

Sexual abuse awareness training, mandated by the Diocese of Buffalo will be conducted at our parish/school on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The training is a way for your child to learn to recognize and respond appropriately and assertively to issues such as improper touch, tricks used by sexual predators, and internet safety.

Your child will not be exposed to specific sexual language or depictions of graphic situations. A copy of the *diocesan approved* lesson plan for your child’s age group is enclosed for your review.

Parents are invited to discuss the content of this lesson plan prior to its implementation with their children. You may also contact our office should you wish to learn more about this topic to better equip yourself to respond to your child’s questions.

If you do NOT wish for your child to participate, please sign the release below, detach it, and return it to us before the date of your child’s instruction. An alternate educational opportunity will be provided for your child during that session.

Sincerely,

Principal/DRE & Pastor

I ask that my child/children \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ be

excused from attending the Sexual Abuse Awareness session at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_parish/school on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(date). I understand

that it is my right and responsibility as a parent under guidelines of the Catholic

Church to do any such instruction myself.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date