



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF WICHITA

Chancery Office

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CatholicDioceseOfWichita.org

June 3rd, 2019

Dear Parents or Guardians,

God's grace and peace be with you!

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops requires all Catholic religious education programs to create and maintain a safe environment for our children.

The Diocese of Wichita uses the *VIRTUS Protecting God's Children Safe Environment* program. The children's version of the program uses an introductory video title *The Power to Protect* along with age appropriate lessons taught by catechists and teachers. This is part of our ongoing effort to train youth to recognize inappropriate physical behavior and to protect themselves from potential abuse.

This program is not intended to be a substitute for the responsibility of parents in educating their children in the area of human sexuality and safety. Rather this program equips teachers, catechists and youth ministry leaders to aid parents in ensuring that all children have the tools they need to recognize potential danger and develop skills to protect themselves from harm.

Since this training is mandatory, in the event that a child should be absent from the day of the lesson, the materials will be sent home for you to cover with your child(ren).

We encourage you to read the *Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide* to be aware of the nature of the *Protecting God's Children Safe Environment Lessons for Children*. You may find this document at www.virtus.org by logging in and clicking on the *Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide* in the left hand bar. You may also request a copy of this document and the lessons your children will be receiving by contacting your child's school, your parish DRE, or the Diocesan Safe Environment Office at 316-440-1731.

Sincerely in Christ,

Therese Seiler

Vice Chancellor, Catholic Diocese of Wichita