



Chancery Office
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WICHITA

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July 1st, 2016

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 Safe Environment* program. 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 "overview" and "lesson plan" to be aware of the nature of the *VIRTUS Safe Environment* program. You may find these documents at www.virtus.org and click on the "Touching Safety Program" in the left hand bar. "Touching Safety Program" and the "Safe Environment" program are two titles for the same program.

Sincerely in Christ,

Therese Seiler

Vice Chancellor, Catholic Diocese of Wichita

"Put your gifts at the service of one another." 1 Peter 4:10