BEHAVIORAL BOUNDARIES FOR MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

DO	DO NOT
• Do express affection with children when others are present e.g. o Side hugs o Shoulder to shoulder hugs o Handshakes & "high-fives" o Kneeling or bending for hugs with minors o Touching when in the context of a blessing	• Do not engage in physical contact with minors that might be misconstrued, e.g. o Kisses on the mouth o Holding children on the lap unnecessarily o Touching knees or legs of minors o Wrestling or tickling minors o Giving or receiving of massages
• Offer verbal praise for a job well-done.	• Do not offer compliments or put-downs that relate to physique or body development.
• Practice openness. Avoid secrecy.	• Do not single out individual minors for gifts. Give to the group.
• Have at least one other adult present when working with minors. Conduct private conversations where there is open access and visibility.	• Do not take a minor to an isolated environment, including personal living quarters. This does not include confession.
• Model virtuous behavior. Nurture appropriate relationships in your own life.	• Avoid non-virtuous behavior e.g. o Any form of pornography o Being intoxicated in public o Using crude, vulgar or sexually explicit language.
• Support parents in their parenting role.	• Do not encourage minors to engage in activities that their parents would not allow.
• Report inappropriate incidents. Help one another to stay within the appropriate boundaries as defined in Diocesan policies.	• Do not ignore suspicious behavior.

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