



Parents:

The Catholic Church in the United States is committed to doing everything possible to keep our children and youth safe from sexual abuse.

The most effective method to do this is through education. Every year our Parish Religious Education Program will teach the VIRTUS® program "Empowering God's Children" to students in order to meet our educational goal.

The course material is broken up into age groups and the material is appropriate to the age. Each year the material is expanded upon so your children are exposed to new information. This year's lesson plans are *Physical Boundaries: Safe and Unsafe Touching Rules* and *Safe Adults, Safe Touches and Special Safe Adults*.

This office is also happy to provide you the actual lesson plan upon request.

We recognize that as a parent or guardian, you are the ultimate teacher of your child. These classes are intended to assist you in the formation of your child's understanding of this topic. We encourage you to make certain your child attends this important class.

You do have the option to withhold your child from class on the Sunday "Empowering God's Children" is taught. If you do, there is an opt-out letter included with your registration. Please fill it out and return it to your parish office. If you do opt your child(ren) out of the class, please find a way to share this information with them.

In God's Love,

Joan B. Altmeyer
Director Safe Environment
Diocese of Savannah

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