

Diocese of Savannah

From: Office for the Protection of Children and Young People

Topic: *Empowering God's Children* Opt-Out for students

Date: Academic Year 2021-2022

The *Empowering God's Children*™ program has been chosen as the safe environment training program for children enrolled in religious education classes in the Diocese of Savannah. This program is offered every year for students enrolled in these classes.

The program is divided into four parts according to grade (K-2; 3-5; 6-8; 9-12) and consists of two annual sessions between half an hour and one hour.

You, like the father, mother or legal guardian, have the right to decide if your son or daughter participates. You are encouraged to read the summary attached to this letter so that you know the program better. If you decide that you do not want your son or daughter to participate, please fill out the form at the end of this letter and return it to your son or daughter's religious education teacher by \_\_\_\_\_.

If you choose to opt-out your child, this office strongly encourages you to receive the lesson plans from your parish or the Diocese in order to teach your child this information in your home at your discretion.

If you have questions, please contact Ms. Joan Altmeyer, Director Safe Environment for the Office of Youth Protection, at 912-201-4074 or at the following email address: [jbaltmeyer@diosav.org](mailto:jbaltmeyer@diosav.org).

For more information about this program, visit the VIRTUS website: [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

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Form not to participate in the program *Empowering God's Children*

The Diocese of Savannah does NOT have my permission to teach the Safe Contact program to my child(ren). Number of Students Opted Out: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of father or mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the father or mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_