

Fall 2010

TO: Parents and Guardians

FROM: Divine Mercy (Parish or School)

SUBJECT: VIRTUS – Protecting God's Children, Touching Safety Program,

Our parish/school will present the sexual abuse prevention program, VIRTUS – *Protecting God's Children*, to our students on November 14, 2010 (date). *Protecting God's Children* is part of the Diocese of Sacramento's ongoing effort to help create and maintain a safe environment for children and to protect all children from sexual abuse.

This year for children enrolled in religious education and Catholic elementary schools we will offer *VIRTUS - Protecting God's Children* lessons on "Touching Safety Rules" and "Understanding Safe Friends, Safe Adults, and Safe Touches." We respect each parent/guardian's right to decide whether their child participates in this program. If you determine that you DO NOT want your child to participate, please complete the "opt-out" form at the bottom of this page, and return it to your child's teacher prior to the planned lesson.

As parents and guardians, we encourage you to make a point of discussing boundaries with your children and teens, including the kinds of behavior that are inappropriate for adults. Children should be encouraged to trust their instincts, recognize when they feel their boundaries are not being respected, and tell a trusted adult.

If you have specific questions about diocesan safe environment programs please contact your school principal, or parish director of religious education. For additional parent support materials you may visit our website at www.diocese-sacramento.org. For more information on the *Touching Safety* lessons, you may also visit the *VIRTUS Online™* website at www.virtus.org.

Opt-out form for use with the VIRTUS – *Protecting God's Children, Touching Safety Program*:

Divine Mercy (Parish or School)

DOES NOT have my permission to present the VIRTUS – *Protecting God's Children, Touching Safety* program, to my child(ren).

Name(s) _____

Name(s) _____

Name(s) _____

Parent/Guardian's Name (printed): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____