T0: Parents/Guardians of Faith Formation Children

FROM: Lou Ann Kemper, MTS

Holy Family Director of Faith Formation

SUBJECT: *Virtus* Curriculum Required by the Diocese

DATE: September 25, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On Wednesday, October 9th, we will be focusing on a diocesan-required annual curriculum which emphasizes safety for children. The actual name of the program is called “Protecting God’s Children: Touching Safety for Children.” The material has a footer that says, “Sex Abuse Prevention Curriculum for Children.” The diocese requires that we let you know ahead of time so that you may choose to keep your children home that night if you wish**. If you do, we ask that you fill out the form below and return it next week, October 2nd.** If you opt out, on October 9th, just keep your child/children at home; but don’t forget to come back on the 16th.

**Here is more information that may also help you decide what is best for your child/children:**

* Principle: Supporting children in learning to speak up, speak out, and make sure they are heard when they are confused or scared or when something happens that makes them uncomfortable or uneasy.
* Choosing the right time and the right person to talk to about things.
* Knowing what to say and how to say it so that adults pay attention.
* Catechism: Man is obliged to follow moral law, which urges him “to do what is good and avoid what is evil.” (cf. *Gaudium et Spes*). This law makes itself heard in his conscience. #1713
* Goal: To assist children and young people in being able to speak up when they are confused or scared, to speak out when something happens that makes them feel uncomfortable, and to make sure that they are heard when they talk to adults in their life about something that is important.
* Learning Goals: To teach children and young people some guidelines about speaking up and speaking out when they experience situations that make them feel scared or confused or when they feel uncomfortable or uneasy with someone or something that is happening. Empowering children by providing communication skills that can be used in a variety of situations and focusing their application to circumstances that place them at risk related to their person safety.
  + Children and young people can learn age appropriate skills to empower them to communicate powerfully.
  + Children and young people can start to learn to identify times, places, and people that provide the best chance for them to be heard when they have something important to communicate.
* Age appropriateness is divided into K-2nd, 3rd – 5th, and 6th – 8th.

I hope this information that we provided also helps you.

Lou Ann

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***Detach and return on October 2nd if your child will NOT be attending October 9th, Virtus curriculum night.***

Parent’s/Guardian’s Name Printed

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Name(s)/Grade(s) of Child/ Children

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Parent’s/Guardian’s Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_