



DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE

OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the 2022/2023 academic year! In accordance with the *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, the Diocese of San José will continue to present the **VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children 2.0** curriculum as the designated youth safe environment program.

As you may recall, we introduced the new version of the **VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children 2.0** curriculum a few years ago. The lessons are organized in a three-year cycle so students receive the full range of information from the *Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide* in small, “digestible” bites, over a three-year period. This year represents Year 3 in the cycle. Please read on for more information.

VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children Curriculum (K-12th)

Prior to presenting the VIRTUS® Lessons to your class, please review the [Overview of the Teaching Safety Empowering God's Children™ Program \(Spanish\)](#) and the [Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide \(Spanish\)](#) included in this packet.

The 2022/2023 academic year is **Year 3** of the three-year cycle. This year, you will be presenting:

- Lesson 5 - Being a Safe Friend
- Lesson 6 - Boundaries: Feelings and Facts

To access the lesson plans, please visit <https://www.dsj.org/protecting-gods-children/virtus-resources-for-teachers-catechist/school-virtus-online-packet/>, and choose lessons 5 & 6 for your grade level (K-2nd, 3rd – 5th, 6th- 8th, or 9th-12th). Your school may choose to present the lessons separately or combined.

Opt-Outs

Parental disclosure is critical to the success of this program. All families will be given the opportunity to opt-out of the **VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children** curriculum. At least two weeks prior to the presentation, please distribute the [VIRTUS® Parent Letter \(Spanish\)](#) and [VIRTUS® Parent Opt-Out Form \(Spanish\)](#). Please keep all opt-out forms on file at your school for a minimum of three years.



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Documentation

Schools must complete and submit the [School VIRTUS Audit Reporting Form](#). The audit form asks for four key pieces of data: total number of students enrolled in the school, total number of students who received VIRTUS lesson, total number of students who opt-out, and total number of students who were absent. Please note that beginning this year, opt-out students and absent students are reported separately.

Please submit the *VIRTUS Audit Reporting Form* before **April 30th, 2023**.

Youth Volunteers (K-8th)

To be eligible to volunteer at a parish or Catholic school, students up to thirteen-years-old must complete the *VIRTUS[®] Protecting God's Children* lesson and review the Diocesan Youth Code of Conduct (available [English](#) and in [Spanish](#)).

High School Students (9th -12th)

To be eligible to volunteer at a parish or Catholic school, high school students - 9th grade up to their 18th birthday - must complete the *VIRTUS[®] Healthy Relationships for Teens* training available at www.virtusonline.org (you may share the [VIRTUS Registration Instructions](#) with your students). The training must be renewed every two years.

PLEASE NOTE: The *VIRTUS[®] Healthy Relationships for Teens* online training fulfills the *VIRTUS[®] Catholic Safe Environment Curriculum* requirement for one academic year. Thus, if a student completes the *VIRTUS[®] Healthy Relationships for Teens* online training course, they have satisfied the *VIRTUS[®] Catholic Safe Environment Curriculum* lessons for that academic year. Suggested training schedule for high schools:

- **9th & 11th Grade - *VIRTUS[®] Healthy Relationships for Teens* (completed online)**
- **10th & 12th Grade - *VIRTUS* Catholic Safe Environment Curriculum (presented by teacher in class)**



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Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Griselda Cervantez, Victim Assistance Coordinator and Prevention Advocate, via email Griselda.Cervantez@dsj.org or by phone at 408-983-0225.

The Office for the Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults thanks you for your continued partnership in maintaining a safe environment for our most vulnerable.