



DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE

OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the 2023/2024 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.

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. Last year we ended our first three-year cycle. This year represents Year 1 of the new 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 2023/2024 academic year is **Year 1** of the three-year cycle. This year, you will be presenting:

- Lesson 1 - Physical Boundaries: Safe and Unsafe Touching Rules
- Lesson 2 - Safe Adults, Safe Touches and Special Safe Adults

To access the lesson plans, please visit the [School VIRTUS Online Packet](#) and choose Lessons 1 & 2 for your grade level. As always, please select one to two activities from each lesson to present to your students. You may choose to present the lessons on the same or separate days.

Sample Lesson Outline :

- Power to Protect 2.0 Introductory Video: 10 minutes
- Lesson 1- One or two activities of your choosing: 25-30 minutes
- Lesson 2- One or two activities of your choosing: 25-30 minutes
- Closing Prayer: 5 minutes



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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.

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 opt-out students and absent students are reported separately.

Please submit the *VIRTUS Audit Reporting Form* before **April 30th, 2024**.

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 annual *VIRTUS® Catholic Safe Environment Curriculum* requirement for one 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 Lessons* (presented by teacher in class)**



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Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Griselda Cervantez, Victim Assistance & Safe Environment Program Coordinator, 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.