VIRTUS® Protecting God’s Children Lesson- Parent Letter

[TEMPLATE- May be Edited]

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In accordance with the *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops National Charter for the Protection of Children & Young People (USCCB Charter)*, the Diocese of San José is proud to continue with the *VIRTUS® Protecting God’s Children* as the annual curriculum for our Diocesan students, both in private schools and catechetical programs. While as parents you are the primary educators for your children, we recognize our obligation to support your efforts through lessons on personal safety and safe behaviors. This year, the focus will be on 1) Boundaries: You Have Rights! and 2) Secrets, Surprises, and Promises. You may review the lesson plans by using the following link (if the link does not work, please copy and paste to your web browser): https://www.dsj.org/protecting-gods-children/virtus-resources-for-teachers-catechist/parish-virtus-packet/

While this curriculum is mandated by the USCCB Charter for students at our schools and parishes, the Diocese offers an Opt-Out Form for parents who do not wish to have their children participate. You can find the [Opt-Out Form here](https://www.dsj.org/wp-content/uploads/5a-VIRTUS-Parent-Opt-Out-Form-2021.2022-Active.pdf). If you do not want your child to attend the class, please return the Opt-Out form to your child’s faith formation program at least one week prior to the scheduled class.

Your child’s *VIRTUS® Protecting God’s Children* lesson has been scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. For specific questions regarding the training at your parish, please contact your child’s Director of Religious Education. If you have general questions regarding the *VIRTUS®*  program, please contact Griselda Cervantez at the Diocese of San Jose- Office for the Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults via email, Griselda.Cervantez@dsj.org, or phone (408) 983-0225. Thank you.