



## DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE

### OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

#### VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children Lesson- Parent Letter

[TEMPLATE- May be Edited]

Dear Parents,

We understand that there is much uncertainty as we face re-openings and distance learning, but it is important that the Church's commitment to the safety and well-being of our children remains a priority. As such, and 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** lesson as the designated youth safe environment program.

Normally, the *VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children* lesson is presented in class by a catechist. However, your religious education program may be facing unique challenges ranging from access to resources, personnel, computer literacy concerns, and COVID-19 related restrictions. With that in mind, we are requesting that you cover the material at home with your student and submit an Electronic Parent Verification Form.

To complete the *VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children* lesson at home, please follow these steps:

**1) Review the *Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide: Safe Environment Guide for Caring Adults, Parents and Guardians***

\*This guide will prepare parents with a solid understanding of lesson themes

**2) Complete the *Modified VIRTUS Protecting God's Children* lesson**

\*To assist parents, the lesson has been simplified to three short activities: Introductory Video, Safety Terminology Review, and Touching Safety Rules.

**3) Submit [Electronic Parent Verification Form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4gL3YXmtSECPuWK3hwbJgwNwCgk9QUdKt3X_GJVHLjNUN1BFMU44SzlyT01RUjYzVzMwTDdVRIM3Vy4u) (One per Student)-** if hyperlink does not work, please cut and paste the following link into your browser:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4gL3YXmtSECPuWK3hwbJgwNwCgk9QUdKt3X\\_GJVHLjNUN1BFMU44SzlyT01RUjYzVzMwTDdVRIM3Vy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4gL3YXmtSECPuWK3hwbJgwNwCgk9QUdKt3X_GJVHLjNUN1BFMU44SzlyT01RUjYzVzMwTDdVRIM3Vy4u)

\*It is critical that parents complete the verification form for audit purposes. If you are unable to submit the Electronic Parent Verification Form online, you will be provided with a paper copy of Parent Verification Form that can be returned to your parish.



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For specific questions regarding the lesson at your parish, please contact your child's Director of Religious Education. If you have general questions regarding the *VIRTUS*® Protecting God's Children program, please contact Griselda Cervantez at the Chancery via email, [Griselda.Cervantez@dsj.org](mailto:Griselda.Cervantez@dsj.org), or phone (408) 983-0225.

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**The Diocese of San José thanks you for your continued partnership in maintaining a safe environment for our children. Together, we will face the uncertainty of the new school year with hope, determination, and prayer.**