

All adults are part of the solution
to the problem of child abuse
in our homes,
parishes and communities.

When caring adults have a “healthy suspicion”
about something in their surroundings,
they can identify the risks
to children early enough
to prevent
child abuse from occurring.



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ANN

Religious Education Program

Protecting God’s Children



Protecting God's Children is a mandatory training program for all Church personnel and volunteers who work with minors. It is a program concerning abuse of children, the means for creating a safe environment for children, and how to respond to a suspected case of child abuse.

This training provides sobering information about the extent to which abuse of children is pervading our society and the necessity for all of us to be more aware as to how we can protect children.

A parish needs a core group of trained specialists - people within the parish and schools - who have additional knowledge and training on how to prevent harm to children. Those who interact with children become the core prevention effort within the parish. They receive an added benefit by completing a certification course on the prevention of child abuse. All adults are protectors of children. It is the role of the adult in the faith community to keep their eyes and ears open, and to report any suspicious activity to appropriate authorities and church officials. The awareness session empowers each person with five steps to help prevent child abuse. A trained facilitator leads these awareness sessions.

New employees and volunteers must complete the Protecting God's Children program within one month of commencing service.

Once the workshop is completed by an employee or volunteer, a certificate of completion is issued by the Diocese of Metuchen.

Go to www.virtus.org for more information regarding this program.

Protecting God's Children

If you have not attended a training session, you will need to do so prior to participating in any of the parish ministries that involve children.

- To register for a training session

1. go to www.virtus.org
2. look for the word Registration on the left-hand column
3. click on the "View List of Session" tab
4. under the "select location - go to Metuchen NJ (Diocese)
5. look for the session/location that best suits your schedule
6. click on "start registration" and follow the steps

- Once you have completed the training, you will need to forward the following information:

- 1 – Certificate
- 2 – Disclosure Form
- 3 – Code of Conduct
- 4 – Authorization Form
- 5 - Fingerprinting