

January 15, 2021

Dear Parents,

In teaching your student about our Catholic Faith, St. John Bosco Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Program and you have been called to a ministry. A ministry that embodies the mission of Christ in caring for your student and caring for one another. We have not only been called to teach your student about our Catholic faith but to do so in a space that is a safe, and allows your student to form a relationship with God.

As a result, the Archdiocese of Seattle and us would to provide an opportunity to educate your student and give them the tools they need to protect themselves from those who may harm them. In creating a safe space for your student, we can teach and show them the ways of Christ in a safe environment conducive to learning. Keeping our minors and vulnerable adult's safe starts with you.

To do this I will host two Zoom workshop to teach this sexual abuse prevention course to your student. Or I can give you the materials for you to have these important conversations at home with your Student. This lesson has been integrated into the religious task and essential concepts taught within the FF and YM program. To make it seem as natural as possible while being most effective for your student in the context of abuse prevention.

Please understand that your student are being given a lesson about sexual abuse prevention, not sex education. While these topics do have similar names, they are completely different subject matter. **Sexual abuse prevention** courses teach and give our student the tools they need to protect themselves from those who may try to harm them. **Sex Education** is curriculum designed to examine issues relating to human sexuality, including relations, responsibility, sexual anatomy, sexual activity, reproduction, etc.

To help you understand what your student will be offered please visit the links below. They provide an overview of what the Teaching Safety Empowering God's Children Program by Virtus is. This includes information about the lessons used, the structure of the program, and purpose of the Introductory Videos.

For more information, we ask you to visit:

- [www.seattlearchdiocese.org/SEP/faithformation.aspx](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/SEP/faithformation.aspx)
  - Resources available here include:
    - Educating Yourself As The Parent/Guardian – Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide from Virtus.
      - You are encouraged to read this to better educate yourself and your children.
    - Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Lesson Plans
    - Along with the overview, opt out forms and additional information.
- [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org)

As a parent you have the right to opt your student out of this lesson. If this is something that you would like to do fill out the Opt Out Form. Opt Out Form is attached or available on our website.

If you have any questions, concerns, or need more information please contact myself via email or by calling the Parish Office.

Blessings,

*Cassie Denning*

Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

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