

# CODE OF CONDUCT

## St. Matthias Parish and School

### Columbus, Ohio

#### Introduction

*All Priests /Religious/Employees/Volunteers must strictly follow the Code of Conduct (see below) as a condition of providing services to the children and/or youth of St. Matthias Parish and School.*

*All Priests/Religious/Employees/Volunteers working with children and/or youth must provide the parish with an official BCI record verification and must have attended The Protecting God's Children Training before being permitted to work with children and/or youth.*

### CODE OF CONDUCT

Our Children are the most precious gifts God has entrusted to our care. As a priest, religious, employee or volunteer of St. Matthias Parish and School I acknowledge that all individuals will be treated with respect, courtesy, dignity, patience, loyalty and integrity. I promise to strictly follow rules in this Code of Conduct as a condition of my providing services to the children and/or youth of our parish and school.

1. Situations in which an individual is alone with a minor should be avoided. However, if a one-to-one meeting with a minor needs to occur, it should be held in a public or visible area such as an office with an interior window or an office with the door open.
2. Minors are never to be disciplined corporally or corrected with abusive or other inappropriate language.
3. Employees, volunteers, priests, and religious are expected to avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products while in the presence of those who are underage.
4. As professionals, we should always provide a safe environment, which ensures that sexual boundaries will not be violated.
5. Never touch a minor in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
6. It is illegal to engage in any form of sexual behavior with a minor.
7. Professionals in supervisory capacity should be mindful of their responsibilities to the youth that they serve, and at no time shall their role be used to coerce an individual to engage in any sexual behavior.
8. Always report any suspected abuse to appropriate, designated staff.

I understand that as a priest/religious/volunteer/employee working with children and/or youth, I must follow the above listed Code of Conduct. I understand that failure to follow any rule in the Code of Conduct will result in an inquiry from the Diocese.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature* *Print Name* *date*