You Matter!
Notice to Parents

This coloring book was created by the Archdiocese of Atlanta. They have graciously given permission for the Diocese of Steubenville to use this outstanding resource. Designed for children in pre-kindergarten through third grade, this activity book was created in response to Article 12 of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People because, sadly, children experience things they should not have to. The intent of this book is to teach children that although God is a loving, listening, caring presence in their daily lives, He also listens and speaks to them through special adults whom He sends to children because He loves them. Children should feel secure and safe in sharing information about problems or people that worry them with a trusted grown-up.

Recognizing the role of parents as the primary educators of their children in the faith, the Diocese of Steubenville requests that parents share this material with their children. Please discuss these safety issues with your child in a way that suits your child’s age and level of development. We hope that this material provides an opportunity for children to talk with their parents about safety issues.

The Diocese of Steubenville is committed to providing safe environment programs for the children entrusted to our care, so feedback is welcome.

Please direct your responses to:
Office of the Vicar General
422 Washington Street
Steubenville, OH 43952
740-282-3631

This book was originally produced by the Office of the Chancellor and the Office of Communications in consultation with the Office of Child and Youth Protection all of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. It has been adapted for use by the Diocese of Steubenville with the permission of the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

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You are a precious gift from God

“You Matter” because God made only one of you. You are special in every way.
My name is: ____________________

I am special because: ____________
God made all of you, so He knows every part of you. He loves you so much that He even knows the number of hairs on your head!
Every day we should try to be good like God. We should try to think and act like He would. We learn about God from our parents, teachers and religion classes. Praying is talking and listening to God.

The more you pray, the closer you get to God.
People sometimes do bad things because God allows them to choose to do either good things, which please Him, or bad things, which hurt Him and are sins. This is called free will. God wants us to be free to choose to do good things, but when people do bad things, they are using their free will in a wrong way. That is why you and sometimes other people you know do things that hurt you, worry you or make you sad.
It makes God sad when people do bad things (sin). But when you say, “I’m sorry,” that makes God happy again. But you have to try with all your strength to never again do that particular thing. God will send gifts to help you not do it. One gift is grace; another gift is good people.
God listens to all of your thoughts and hears when you pray to Him. You probably pray before meals or at bedtime, but it is a good idea to pray when you feel sick, worried, alone, afraid or even to thank Him for something beautiful. God will always listen to you. But sometimes you might worry because even though you pray to Jesus, you cannot always hear His answer to your questions. You might think, “Where is God and what does He want me to do?”
God is bigger and stronger than anyone or anything, any monsters underneath our beds, or anything else in the world. Nothing is too big or too small for God. He even sent you a special guardian angel whom you cannot see but who is always there. When you are afraid, God watches over you but sends people to help you.
When bad things happen to you or you are worried about something, it is best to tell a person you trust who can help you.

**God sent special people into your life to remind you that He is always there for you.**

These special people will talk with you, help you and love you almost as much as God loves you. They will either help you themselves or send you to other special adults who can help you. If someone you always trusted does something to hurt you, go to another person you trust.
So,
If someone makes you feel weird or worried
or
Asks you to keep a secret from your parents or teachers
or
Gives you candy or presents to keep a secret
or
Hurts or threatens you
or
Touches you in a wrong way or in areas that you know they shouldn’t

Tell Your Parents, a Teacher or a Grown-up You Love and Trust.

God wants these grown-ups to help you because

You ARE so SPECIAL!
Always remember that, you matter!

God loves you and wants you to be happy, healthy and holy!