



Dear Members of our Nativity Family,

Back in 2002, as part of the Bishops of the United States Conference, the Bishops enacted a charter for protecting God's children. Since that time, all diocese in the United States and abroad have required that all clergy, women and men religious, lay employees, parish and school catechists, and other volunteers be screened, official background check updated, and be up-to-date with monthly ongoing educational opportunities, with the main purpose of creating a safe environment for all of our children.

Along with these measures, parishes are requested to host ongoing training sessions for new people interested in working with children, as well as for youth in our parishes and schools. We are also mandated to provide ongoing formation in safe environments for our children and youth.

I share this note to strongly encourage you to find time in the next few days to sit with your child or youth and view and discuss together an age-appropriate formation safety lesson. Please follow the directions to respond back to us so that we may report back to our Diocese the progress we have made in this most important work of Protecting all of God's Children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Fr. Ron'.

Rev. Ronald P. Sajdak
Pastor



Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is our cherished role as adults to fully protect children. In addition, we must also teach children about their safety rights and boundaries, so that they have tools to protect themselves.

Provided below is a program entitled *Empowering God's Children*. The material is designed to better equip your child to know their rights, recognize their boundaries, and to empower them to protect themselves when safe adults are not immediately available—and ultimately be safer from people who might want to harm them.

In past years, this material was presented in the classroom. This year, we are excited to provide these materials and lessons directly to you, our families, to complete at home. As the primary educators of your children, parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to review the materials provided below and complete the age-appropriate safety lesson with your child(ren) at home.

You also have the ability to “opt-out” of presenting the lesson to your child(ren). **Whatever your decision, we ask that you complete the Nativity feedback form linked at the bottom of this document. The information requested on the feedback form is required by the Diocese of Buffalo, so please complete the form no later than May 31, 2021.**

Empowering God's Children Safety Lessons

Step 1) Parents/Guardians, these two documents are extremely helpful for preparing to complete the *Empowering God's Children* Safety Lesson Plans with your child. Please review.

- Overview and Principles of the Program: <https://www.virtusonline.org/educators/16003/overview.pdf>
- Teaching Boundaries and Touching Safety Guide: <https://www.virtusonline.org/educators/Teaching-Boundaries-and-Safety-Guide-English.pdf>

Step 2) Lesson Plans with Embedded Video Links, to complete with your child(ren).

- Parents Grades K – 2: <https://www.virtusonline.org/educators/parents/Parent-Lesson1-K-2.pdf>
- Parents Grades 3 – 5: <https://www.virtusonline.org/educators/parents/Parent-Lesson1-3-5.pdf>
- Parents Grades 6 – 8: <https://www.virtusonline.org/educators/parents/Parent-Lesson1-6-8.pdf>
- Parents Grades 9 – 12: <https://www.virtusonline.org/educators/parents/Parent-Lesson1-9-12.pdf>

REQUIRED:

After you have reviewed the materials and lessons in steps 1 & 2 above, please complete our feedback form and let Nativity know if you:

- a) have completed the lesson with your child(ren); or
- b) are opting-out of presenting the lesson to your child(ren).

Feedback Form: <http://bit.ly/SafetyFeedbackForm> - Due May 31, 2021