



St. Joseph Catholic Academy

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October 5, 2010

Dear St. Joseph Parents and Guardians,

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau is committed to helping children learn and grow in a safe and healthy environment. In accordance with the U.S. Bishop's **Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People**, the program **Protecting God's Children – Teaching Touching Safety** (commonly referred to as "Virtus") has been adopted by our Diocese. This includes an ongoing adult training program, background checks, and code of conduct for clergy, educators, employees, and volunteers. In addition, all Catholic schools and parish PSR programs are participating in the child and youth education components of Virtus.

St. Joseph School students, grades Kindergarten through 8th grade, participate in two lessons each school year; one in the fall (October) and one in the spring (April).

For parents who would like to review the student materials, please call and I will be happy to make arrangements for going over the materials with you.

You can find an overview of the Teaching Touching Safety Program at the Virtus website: www.virtus.org. If you would prefer, a paper copy can be provided for you – please contact the school office.

We are happy to partner with you in working to keep your child safe. Children are God's gifts to us and a true blessing.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Marilyn Batson

Principal
866-0667

Cc Fr. Denis Dougherty, Diocesan Office of Catholic Schools