

Dear Parent,

The safety and well being of the children of our community are priorities we all need to recognize and work toward. While as parents you are the primary educator of your child, we recognize our obligation to support your efforts through lessons on personal safety and safe behaviors.

While Bishop Morlino has designated November 1-7, 2010 as safe Environment Week for Children, your child will participate in a lesson intended for that purpose on **Wednesday, September 15**. The lesson is age-appropriate and is designed to help the students develop the vocabulary and boundary distinctions necessary to ensure their health and safety.

You may want to preview the lesson your child will be taught. You can find the grade specific lessons on the diocesan website: [www.madisondiocese.org](http://www.madisondiocese.org). Under the Diocese of Madison tab, click on Safe Environment. On the Safe Environment page look for "Children's Program" on the left side.

Schools and religious education programs always recognize and support parents as the primary educators of their children, and support parents who choose to teach their own children, with regard to these matters. If you would like to do this, contact your school principal or religious education director for the materials. You are also welcome to attend the class with your child.

You may want to remind your child that no one should approach or touch them in a way that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. If someone does, they should immediately tell you. Some questions you may use to review at home include:

1. What are some safety rules at school?
2. What are some safety rules at home?
3. What are some things you can do to stay safe when you are out in the neighborhood?
4. Who can you talk to if you don't feel safe?

Parents are encouraged to participate in the *Virtus* "Protecting God's Children for Parents" training. This program is designed to assist parents in providing education for personal safety to their children. Another resource for parents is the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children which provides general tips for parents and guardians to help keep their children safer. Their website is [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com).

If you have any questions about the session on "Valuing God's Gift to Ourselves and Others," please feel free to contact me.

Peace,

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