



Dear Family,

Our parish is participating in a personal safety and abuse prevention program for upper grade children sponsored by the Archdiocesan Offices of Child Advocacy, Implementation and Oversight, the Office of Religious Education and the Catholic Schools Office.

Our 4th through 8th grade religious education classes will use the Archdiocese of Boston's "Keeping Children Safe" Child Abuse Prevention Program – a program designed to address safety issues related to the needs of children in these age categories. The topics will cover issues like safety while walking home alone, safety in public places, Internet safety, making responsible choices, showing respect, acting responsibly, sexual harassment and abusive relationships, and personal safety.

Children learn more about safety and are more likely to follow safety rules when they have multiple opportunities to practice and talk about safety with their parents and family. We encourage you to help your child learn and practice the safety rules.

If you **do not** wish your child to participate in this program, please complete, sign and return this letter to the Parish Office. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at the Parish Office.

I do not wish for my child, _____, to participate in the *Keeping Children Safe* program.

Parent/Caregiver signature _____



Dear Family,

Our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade religious education classes will soon begin using the *Talking About Touching: A Personal Safety Curriculum*. This program teaches children skills that will help keep them safe from dangerous or abusive situations. Children also learn to ask for help when they need it.

The program is divided into three units:

- Personal Safety – This unit teaches children rules that will help keep them safe in potentially dangerous situations.
- Touching Safety – This unit focuses on teaching children to identify unsafe touches and to say “No”, get away, and tell a grown-up if someone tries to touch their private body parts. Children are also taught to not keep secrets about touching.
- Assertiveness and Support – This unit gives children a chance to practice getting out of unsafe situations and to ask a grown-up for help if they need it.

Grades 1, 2 and 3 will each have one class dedicated to this curriculum. These dates will be announced as soon as possible. On **September 23, 2018** the materials used in the program will be available for parent viewing in the conference room.

If you **do not** wish your child to participate in his/her safety class, please complete, sign, and return this letter to the Parish Office. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

I do not wish for my child, _____, to participate in the *Talking About Touching* program.

Parent/Caregiver signature _____