

TO: Parents and Guardians

FROM: Diocesan and Local Safe Environment Coordinator

SUBJECT: Opt-Out form for use with the *Touching Safety* program and attached Parent Handbook

DATE: August 4, 2011

The Diocese of New Ulm will present a sexual abuse prevention program, the *Touching Safety* program, to students this Fall. The creators of the *Protecting God's Children* program developed the *Touching Safety* program. This program is provided by the Diocese and is a part of our ongoing effort to help create and maintain a safe environment for children and to protect all children from sexual abuse. It is not sex education.

The scheduled lesson is being offered to all students at your parish/school. We encourage you to read the attached "overview" and "lesson plan" so you'll be aware of the nature of the *Touching Safety* program. If you have questions about the program or the lesson, please contact your parish/school directly. If you determine that you do not want your child to participate, please complete the "Opt-Out" information at the bottom of this page, and return the entire page to your child's teacher/catechist before the training.

For more information on the *Touching Safety* program, visit the VIRTUS *Online*[™] website at www.virtus.org.

The Diocese of New Ulm does not have my permission to present the *Touching Safety* program to my child, whose name is _____,
in _____ grade, and attends _____ parish school,
in _____, Minnesota. I acknowledge that I have been provided with materials on personal safety/safe environment for training my child, and that the Diocese is not accountable if my child is not instructed on the concepts contained in the materials.

Parent's name
(printed): _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____