

Virtus Training

“Virtus” is the brand name that identifies best practices programs designed to help prevent wrongdoing and promote “rightdoing” within religious organizations. The Virtus programs empower organizations and people to better control risk and improve the lives of all those who interact with the Church.

A major goal of the Virtus program is to assist the Church in being a safe haven for children. We do this by educating and uniting adults who are willing to continue to grow in their knowledge of the reality to our children, monitor all programs, and speak responsibly about their concerns. We hope to maximize those efforts by helping parishes and religious organizations refine their roles as safe environments for children, and give them new tools – as communities and individual adults and parents – to protect children and youth.”

The Standards of Conduct for Ministry’s Policy states “A volunteer is anyone who works with children more than four (4) hours a month or who works with children more frequently than once a month. Examples include but are not limited to, a catechist, coach, altar server coordinator, youth leader, intern, student teacher, room mother and others in similar capacities.”

Any adult volunteering their time interacting with students at St. Anthony of Padua School/PSR/Church must complete the following:

1. Virtus Training. Virtus Training is a three hour course presented at different locations throughout the Diocese. You may access this information and register for a class by going online to www.virtus.org. (Click on “Registration”, under “Select your Organization” highlight “Cleveland, OH – Diocese.”) Once you have completed this course, you must provide the parish office with a copy of the Completion Certificate.
2. Read the following two documents on the website for the Diocese of Cleveland at www.dioceseofcleveland.org:
 - a. Policy for Safety of Children in Matters of Sexual Abuse 2007
 - b. Diocese Standards of Conduct in Ministry

Upon completion of these two articles, you must print, sign and return the acknowledgement form at the end of each document, to the parish office.

3. In accordance with the diocesan and parish policies, all persons who volunteer are required to submit a BCI & I Criminal Background Check. This is done through a simple fingerprinting background check. **Corporate Screening, 16530 Commerce Court, Middleburg Hts. does fingerprinting, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. No appointment necessary. The phone number is 440-816-0500.**

I will compile a list of all volunteers both Virtus trained and fingerprinted. Once you have completed the diocesan requirements, you are eligible to volunteer for a parish program. It is your responsibility to make sure that you turn in copies of the following to me at the parish rectory.

1. Certificate of Virtus Attendance – this will be given to you upon class completion.
2. Policy for the Safety of Children in Matters of Sexual Abuse 2007.
3. Standard of Conduct in Ministry.
4. Background Screening (BCI) – inform the screener that the results must be sent to the attention of Mr. Randy Harris, St. Anthony of Padua Parish.

If you have any questions in regards to this matter, please contact me at 440-842-2666.

Sincerely in Christ,

Randy Harris, M.R.E.
Director of Religious Education/Pastoral Associate