



*Archdiocese of Newark*  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

December 14, 2018

My Dear Sisters and Brothers and in Christ,

As we continue to pray for healing of all victims of abuse, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the programs currently available to everyone working with children, and the children themselves, in use at every parish and school in the Archdiocese, in compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

Virtus' **Protecting God's Children for Adults** and the recertification programs **Keeping the Promise Alive** and **Vulnerable Adults** form the foundation of our education and awareness program for all parents, volunteers, employees and caring adults, and remain mandatory for anyone working with minors. These programs provide the invaluable tools for all of us to recognize the warning signs of potential perpetrators along with the information on how and where to report suspicious behaviors which could harm our children.

Virtus' **Empowering God's Children**, formerly known as the Teaching Touching Safety Program, is the training program taught to students in all Archdiocesan Catholic schools. Through this program, the children are taught, in an age-appropriate manner, the necessary skills to help protect themselves from sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. This program is similar to the Child Assault Prevention (CAP) program used in public schools in New Jersey. Currently we rely on CAP taught through the public school as the educational program for the Religious Education students.

Education and awareness are only part of the plan to protect our children. We at the Archdiocese remain committed to the strict adherence to every article of the Charter. As I have said before, I am aware that words alone are not enough. We must never again permit the abuses that occurred in the past to return. I am confident that through our prayers and compassion for those who have been harmed in the past we will find healing for our Church. And through dedication and commitment to the protection and safety of all our children, we will honor the words of Jesus: "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.  
Archbishop of Newark

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*Archdiocesan Center*