



Protecting God's Children What the Archdiocese of Miami is Doing

- As per the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the Archdiocese of Miami Safe Environment Policy (found on our website www.miamiarch.com) is dedicated to the protection of children, however the ADOM also extends this policy to vulnerable adults.
- All employees must successfully pass a level II background check –meaning state and federal—through fingerprinting in the ADOM data base. This is repeated every five years.
- All volunteers with access to children and/or vulnerable adults must successfully pass a level II background check –meaning state and federal—through fingerprinting in the ADOM data base. This is repeated every five years.
- All employees and all volunteers have read and signed a Pledge to Promote Safe Environment (similar to a Code of Conduct) spelling out what is acceptable behavior and what is prohibited.
- Virtus live training sessions have been attended by approximately 150,000 adults (employees and volunteers) in the Archdiocese of Miami since 2002. The prevention of child sexual abuse is facilitated through training in awareness of the nature of abuse and the nature of predators as well as providing a plan to protect the vulnerable with five tangible steps everyone can implement toward prevention.
- Over 217 Virtus Facilitators have been trained and served since the implementation of the Charter. These volunteers administer the live training sessions to all ADOM entities in the three county boundaries. Currently there are 97 active facilitators.
- Virtus training continues in the form of monthly bulletins as a method to extend training in a timely and topical manner, addressing topics more specifically and relevantly, especially when it comes to the ever-changing world of technology. It is also the best method for changing the cultural with regard to this crime.
- Approximately 58,000 children receive Teaching Boundary Safety lessons each year. The job of ensuring children's safety is a challenging undertaking. We must give our children the tools they need to overcome the advances of someone who intends to do them harm.
- The Teaching Boundary and Safety Guidebook is disseminated to all parents and child care givers. It is the primary resource designed to help parents have frank and effective conversations with their children about the dangers of child sexual abuse and to help parents educate their children about the warning signs of abuse, and to help parents to better evaluate the safety of those who interact with their children. Because educators support parents in this critical undertaking, it is important for you to understand the types of conversations that parents are (or at least should be) having with their children, and the types of structures that you can help parents create in protecting their children.
- Local Coordinators are employees, or can be volunteers in smaller parishes, who take on the added responsibility of ensuring compliance and record keeping of the Safe Environment Policy at their site. Currently there are 333 local coordinators.