



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

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TO: Parents of CCD Students
FROM: St. John's Religious Education Department
SUBJECT: Opportunity to "opt your child out" of the *Touching Safety* program
DATE: February 24, 2017

Under the directive of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the Diocese of Toledo has given us a sexual abuse prevention program, the *Touching Safety* program, that we are to teach to our students. This consists of 10 lessons, 2 each for 5 consecutive school years, beginning this year. The first 2 lessons will be taught to Grades K – 8 during CCD the week of March 6.

The creators of the *Protecting God's Children*™ program developed the *Touching Safety* program. This program is provided to us by the Diocese of Toledo, 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. We do recognize that the Glandorf Elementary public school has a similar program that is taught there each year. The Diocese of Toledo is still requiring that we teach this program during CCD.

As a parent, you have the right to choose whether your child(ren) participates. 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 Diane Utrup at 419-538-6335. If you determine that you DO NOT want your child(ren) to participate, please complete the "opt-out" form at the bottom of this page, and return it to your child's CCD teacher no later than March 1st.

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

Opt-out form for use with the *Touching Safety* program:

St. John's Religious Education Program does not have my permission to present the *Touching Safety* program, to my child, or children, whose name(s) is _____.

Parent's name (printed): _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____