

**TO: Parents**

**FROM: St. Richard Parish/School**

**SUBJECT: Opportunity to “opt your child out” of the *Touching Safety* program**

**DATE: October 30, 2019**

The Diocese of Toledo requires all parishes to incorporate a teaching module in our safe environment program that instructs children about sexual abuse awareness.

St. Richard PSR will present a sexual abuse prevention program, the *Touching Safety* program, to our students on November 3 (Grades 5-8) and November 10 (Preschool-Grade 4). 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.

The scheduled lesson is being offered to all Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in PSR. As a parent, you have the right to choose whether your student participates. What you need to do . .

- Visit [www.saintrichard.org](http://www.saintrichard.org) and read the “Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide,” as well as the “Touching Safety Quick Reference Guide” so you’ll be aware of the nature of the *Touching Safety* program.
- If you determine that you DO NOT want your child to participate, please complete the “opt-out” form at the bottom of this page, and return it to your child’s catechist no later than November 3.

If you have questions about the program or the lesson, please contact Ann Geise at 419-826-2791. For more information on the *Touching Safety* program, visit the VIRTUS *Online*™ website at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

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

St. Richard Parish does not have my permission to present the *Touching Safety* program, to my child whose name is \_\_\_\_\_.

Parent’s name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_