

**TO: Parents & Guardians**  
**FROM: [JBD Catholics (Decatur, Bridgeport, Jacksboro)]**  
**SUBJECT: Empowering God's Children® program ("Opting" your child out)**  
**DATE: [2022-2023]**

The education and protection of your child is a sacred trust. **[JBD Catholics]** will present a personal safety and abuse prevention program, **Empowering God's Children®**, to our students within the formation year. These dates will be as follows: **[Sun, 10/23/22 and Wed, 10/26/22]**.

This program is provided to us by the Diocese of Fort Worth and is a part of our ongoing mandated effort to help create and maintain a safe environment for children and to protect all children from those who might harm them.

The material in the program is founded on the principles of appropriate relationship boundaries in the broader context of Christian values and virtues, and each lesson is developmentally appropriate for the specific age group. Each lesson includes content with simple and fun activities that reinforce the message.

The scheduled lesson is being offered to all students at **[JBD Catholics]**. Despite our strong belief in the value and necessity of this program, we recognize that as a parent/guardian, you have the right to choose whether your student participates. We encourage you to read the attached "overview" and "lesson plan" so you'll be aware of the nature of the **Empowering God's Children®** program. If you determine that you **DO NOT** want your child to participate, the Diocese requires that you complete the "opt-out" form at the bottom of this page. Only those children for whom a current opt-out form has been received by this date will be exempted from attendance.

For more information on the **Empowering God's Children®** program, visit the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth website at <https://fwdioc.org/safe-environment>, or contact the Diocese Office of Safe Environment at (817) 945-9342. If you have questions about the program, please contact your local DRE.

**Opt-out form for use with the *Empowering God's Children®* program**

I understand and acknowledge that the attendance of my child at the scheduled lesson of the **Empowering God's Children®** program is strongly recommended and encouraged, however, [JBD Catholics] **does not** have my permission to present the **Empowering God's Children®** program to my child(ren) whose name(s) are:

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Parent's Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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