

Dear Parent,

After participating in *Protecting God's Children*, many of you requested that we follow up with a children's program. We have designed a safe environment curriculum that includes a safety program entitled, *Talking About Touching* for primary grades and video instruction for upper grades. This program, as modified, has been used throughout the Diocese since the 2005-06 school year. In addition, the program provides for the continuing response to the Catholic Church's 2002 *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

The *Talking About Touching* program, adapted for the Diocese of Joliet, is a way for your child to learn to recognize and respond appropriately and assertively to improper (sexual) touch. The videos help students understand that they can say no and tell a trusted adult. The instruction is gentle and will help your child learn about these unpleasant realities in a positive way. Your child will not be exposed to specific sexual language or depictions of graphic situations or to anatomically correct language regarding private body parts. This year the instruction will be a review of what was discussed and learned last year.

Dates for the children's instructional review will be _____

If you do NOT wish for your child to participate, please sign the release below, detach it and return to the school before the date of your child's instruction. Other options will be provided for your child during the review.

Sincerely,

I ask that my child/children _____
be excused from attending the instructional review at _____ parish using the safe environment curriculum on _____(date). I acknowledge that I received a copy of the Parent Guide, *Understanding and Preventing Child Sexual Abuse*. I understand that it is my right and responsibility as a parent under guidelines of the Catholic Church to do this instruction myself.

Signature of parent/guardian

Date