

February 19, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In an effort to assist in the monumental mission of protecting children from abuse, St. Catherine of Siena Parish is partnering with you to present a **Safe Environment lesson** to your youth within our CCD Program. It is our cherished role as adults to fully protect children. In addition, we must also teach children about their safety rights and boundaries, so that they have tools to protect themselves.

This school year, your child will be presented with a program entitled ***Empowering God's Children***, recommended by the Diocese of Scranton. Each catechist will present a safety lesson to children that houses a grade-appropriate video component along with a hands-on activity. The material is designed to better equip your child to know their rights, recognize their boundaries, and to empower them to protect themselves when safe adults are not immediately available. As the primary educators of your children, parents and guardians are encouraged to review these materials ahead of time and discuss the information at home.

Lesson 1: *Physical Boundaries: Safe and Unsafe Touching Rules*

Lesson 2: *Safe Adults, Safe Touches and Special Safe Adults*

Lesson 3: *Boundaries: You Have Rights!*

Lesson 4: *Secrets, Surprises and Promises*

Lesson 5: *Being a Safe Friend*

Lesson 6: *Boundaries: Feelings and Facts*

Lesson 1 will be presented this year both at home and in the CCD classroom. You will have the next several weeks to present the lesson at home. For your "home conversation" **videos** are posted on the parish website for appropriate grade levels. **A Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide** is also available for background information and resources. Please see the parish website at : www.northpoconocatholic.com .

Thank you for your valuable partnership with us to protect our youth.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Date(s) of CCD program training: March 19th and 26th

Makeup training dates: April 2

For questions, or to obtain access to the specific lesson and related activities, please contact me:

Sandra Czyzyk, DRE (REMIND OR 570-848-1258)