

# VIRTUS: “Protecting God’s Children”

The Bishops of the United States, through the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, have committed themselves to the protection of children and the healing of those who have been victims of sexual abuse perpetrated by a person acting in the name of the church. Our Dioceses, in a spirit of repentance and renewal, have adopted and implemented policies to fulfill these goals.

In October of 2003 the Diocese of Little Rock chose the VIRTUS (pronounced Veer-tus) program to assist us in our ministry to create safe environments for our children. **The Protecting God’s Children for Adults™** program teaches staff, volunteers and parents to recognize the warning signs of sexual abuse and to respond appropriately.

All employees and **volunteers** that are a minimum of 18 years old and interact with children and youth in the Diocese of Little Rock are required to complete the following:

- ❖ Read the Diocesan Policy Statement on The Sexual Abuse of Minors and Sign the associated affidavit
- ❖ Complete an Employee or Volunteer Screening Release Form (background check)
- ❖ Sign the Volunteer’s Code of Conduct
- ❖ Attend a VIRTUS training session
- ❖ Register with VIRTUS Online for continuing education (go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) and click on “registration”)
- ❖ All **Employees** must read the Diocesan Policy on Sexual Misconduct with Adults and sign the associated affidavit
- ❖

**These guidelines also apply to anyone representing the Diocese of Little Rock as an employee or volunteer in another state or country.**

**ALL CTK HONDURAS MISSIONARIES AGE 18 AND OLDER ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE THIS TRAINING, EVEN THOSE WHO ARE NOT CATHOLIC.**

To register for a class log on to: [www.dolr.org](http://www.dolr.org) – go to “Protecting God’s Children” and scroll down to VIRTUS Training dates