

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 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 – go to “Protecting God’s Children” and scroll down to VIRTUS Training dates