

Touching Safety

Teaching *Touching Safety* requires parents and other caring adults to help children learn appropriate relationship boundaries and how to protect themselves from violators. Through this program, we hope to empower children to respond in the best possible ways when those boundaries are violated.

The creators of the *Protecting God's Children* program developed the *Touching Safety* program. This program is provided to us by the Diocese of Grand Rapids and is a part of our ongoing effort to help create and maintain a safe environment for children and to protect all children from sexual abuse.

Bishop David Walkoviak has required each school and religious education program in the Diocese of Grand Rapids to make the *Touching Safety* program available annually to the children. He makes it clear in the introduction that this is not a program in human sexuality. It is a sexual abuse prevention education program for children. It teaches children to resist the advances of child molesters, and the lures of manipulative, controlling people who would exploit children for their own sexual gratification.

The teachers at St. Charles School will present this *Touching Safety* program to their students, according to the lesson plans of their grade levels, in two classes annually.

As a parent, you have the right to choose whether your student participates. If you have questions about the program, contact Margaret Karpus at 754-3416.