

Archdiocese of Detroit

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Keeping Kids Safe Brochure to be Distributed Protecting God's Children Program Begins New Phase

Keeping Kids Safe, a brochure to be used as a parent-led child safety resource, will be distributed during March and April in the Archdiocese of Detroit. It will serve as a resource guide for parents and guardians of children in kindergarten through high school to educate them about the best practices to use to keep their children safe.

"*Keeping Kids Safe* is the next phase of the *Protecting God's Children* program that began last spring in the archdiocese to educate and train adults— clergy, religious, staff, volunteers, and others— about the dangers of abuse, the warning signs of abuse, ways to prevent abuse, and the methods for properly reporting suspicions of abuse," explained Georgene Wojciechowski, coordinator of parent programs for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Wojciechowski noted the *Keeping Kids Safe* brochure will be sent to families with children attending Catholic schools, parish religious education programs, or participating in youth ministry. It will enable parents and guardians to communicate the importance of developing and maintaining an environment of trust in the home, where children are confident that they can talk to their parents/guardians about any topic, any fear, and any experience they are having.

"The foundation of children's safety is building trust between parents/guardians and children," said Wojciechowski. "Children must learn to recognize uncomfortable and unsafe situations and how to act. In keeping with the Church's teaching, *Keeping Kids Safe* emphasizes the parent/guardian as the primary educator."

Wojciechowski emphasized the Archdiocese of Detroit was "committed to our parents/guardians in our religious education programs, schools, and youth ministry. We want to enable them to create a nurturing and safe family environment for communication to occur," she said.

For more information about the *Keeping Kids Safe* brochure, contact Georgene Wojciechowski at 313-237-5826. Additional information can also be found on the Archdiocese of Detroit website at www.aodonline.org.

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