



OFFICE OF PASTORAL SUPPORT AND CHILD PROTECTION

Archdiocese of Boston
66 Brooks Drive
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

February 2021

Dear Faith Formation Leaders,

It has been quite the challenging year for everyone, including those of you who are working to continue to provide religious education to our children and families during this time of zoom meetings and restrictions on in-person gatherings. In light of the current varied structures for formal faith formation, we have secured permission from the Committee for Children to provide the Child Protection Unit curriculum to grade-school age children throughout the diocese this year. The curriculum is appropriate for children in grades 1 to 5, or those that fall within those ages if your parish does not distinguish by grade levels.

We are happy to be able to offer these classes through the Child Advocacy Office using Zoom. If it is something that would assist you in your education programs, and if you choose to have your students who are enrolled in formal religious education participate, then the 1-time training would cover this year's requirement for Child Protection for those grades/ages. If you have different people overseeing religious education for various ethnic groups in your parish, please make sure you include them in this process.

We will be using the Child Protection Unit/2nd Step program (which is the updated Talking About Touching program), and the 1.5 hour sessions are expected to take place in late February, March, and April. There will be a few different time/date options for each grade.

Your students do not have to all attend the same session. However, a Faith Formation leader or teacher will need to be present on-line for any session where students from your parish are participating, and an adult will have to assist the child at home to sign in to the session. Each parish is responsible for tracking attendance of their students, and for ensuring that those who do not participate in one of the sessions are still receiving child protection training either by parish staff or at home at another time.

Please email Kristen Gotter at kgotter@rcab.org to indicate if your parish is interested. In your email please tell us:

- 1) Name and town of your parish, and if it is part of a collaborative or recently merged parish
- 2) How many students are enrolled in each grade?
- 3) Approximately how many are being taught by the parish, and how many solely by parents?
- 4) What days and times might work best for each of your grades?

This information will help us to create a schedule that meets the needs of as many parishes as possible so please respond as soon as you are able. We will then send out a schedule and information on how to register your students.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to sharing the Gospel with our young parishioners, and to keeping everyone safe.

God Bless,

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