

VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children Awareness Session

As announced in the pulpit announcements all volunteers and ministers are requested to attend the Virtus training and have the Background Check done, if you haven't had them done. If you attended the Virtus training and had the Background Check done then you don't have to have them done again. Also, individuals who just volunteer for the summer festival don't have to attend Virtus but SHOULD have the background check done. If you volunteer for the summer festival and in some other capacity, you should have both done. If you have any questions, call the rectory. It is of uttermost importance that we as a parish community are in full compliance as the Virtus training and Background check have been available for the past five years.

Schedule of Training at Saint Mary of the Isle

English: Thursday, May 22 - 10 AM or 7:30 PM
Saturday, May 24 - 10 AM
Spanish: Sunday, May 25 - After 10 AM Mass
Sunday, June 29 - After 10 AM Mass

All adults working in ministries are required by the Diocese to attend one of these sessions. **VIRTUS** is the brand name that identifies best practices designed to help prevent wrongdoing and promote "right doing" within religious organizations.

The **VIRTUS** programs empower organizations and people to better control risk and improve the lives of those interact with the Church. The Protecting God's Children Program is the **VIRTUS** program for protecting children from child sexual abuse by making every adult employee and volunteers aware of the issues surrounding child sexual abuse. The awareness session also helps adults learn to recognize the warning signs of abuse, and shows them the appropriate way to respond to suspicious behavior. Finally, the awareness session empowers each person with five steps to help prevent child sexual abuse.

You need to register online to attend one of these sessions. Go to <http://www.virtusonline.org> and click the yellow link labeled registration. If you do not have internet access, call Maryann Specht at 432-1320 ext 15.

