

Dear Parent,

Your son/daughter has been invited to serve in ministry to children or youth under the age of 18. This ministry, which assists adults in the care of children or youth, involves special attention to their safety and well-being. The Catholic Church has been especially committed to this endeavor through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' establishment of a national charter to protect God's children. Articles 6, 10, and 12 of the USCCB charter provide for age appropriate formation to ensure that proper care and safety has been established in the care of children.

**USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People Essential Norms**

**ARTICLE 6.** There are to be clear and well-publicized diocesan/eparchial standards of ministerial behavior and appropriate boundaries for clergy and for any other paid personnel and volunteers of the Church in positions of trust who have regular contact with children and young people.

**ARTICLE 10.** The whole Church, especially the laity, at both the diocesan and national levels, needs to be engaged in maintaining safe environments in the Church for children and young people.

**ARTICLE 12.** Dioceses/eparchies are to maintain "safe environment" programs which the diocesan/eparchial bishop deems to be in accord with Catholic moral principles. They are to be conducted cooperatively with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, volunteers, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people. Dioceses/eparchies are to make clear to clergy and all members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons in positions of trust with regard to children.

In that light, your son and daughter, as part of their role as a volunteer serving in regular contact with minors, has been asked to participate in a 2-hour formation program. The formation will be provided by trained facilitators acting on behalf of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

**The objectives of the 2-hour program, named *Jeremiah 1:7*, serve to help the high school person involved in ministry to minors to:**

1. understand the meaning of ministerial authority, stewardship, service and the effects of personal power in relationships
2. understand the meaning of sexual abuse
3. learn the meaning of personal and relational boundaries
4. acquire skills to establish and maintain appropriate boundaries
5. develop skills to recognize and report concerns and abuses for boundary violations with children and other teens

**Your written permission for your child to attend this formation is required.** Please direct any questions regarding this formation to your parish coordinator of this program. Thank you for your support in the care of God's children.