



Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!

May 2016

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Archdiocese of San Antonio is unconditionally committed to the protection of children, youth, and vulnerable populations within our community. In order to assure their protection from harm, it has been mandated that all adults who minister to children must receive Safe Environment Training every three years. It is also mandated that all children and youth enrolled in religious education or in Catholic Schools must also receive Safe Environment Training on a yearly basis.

The Archdiocese of San Antonio is currently using Protecting God's Children by Virtus in order to train adults on abuse prevention. This training is available at our parishes, schools, and online. Protecting God's Children discusses the complexities of abuse and the steps necessary to protect children and youth. The children and youth are educated using the Yello Dyno program and the Child Lures program. These programs are intended to educate, inform, and empower the children and youth in our Archdiocese.

I cannot protect all children and youth alone; it is important that all Catholics ensure that we are following the mandate of Jesus, and "Let the little children come to Me." All adults, including parents, are encouraged to receive Safe Environment Training. Children and youth need trusted and loving adults in whom they can confide any concern or fear.

We have chosen to act vigorously against interpersonal violence. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas on ways to create a Safe Environment in your parish, school, or institution, please call the Office of Victim Assistance & Safe Environment at 210-734-7786 or email at ovase@archsa.org and get involved. This is a responsibility we all must accept in order to protect all of God's children.

With every best wish, I remain sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S.
Archbishop of San Antonio