

Diocese of Phoenix
Called to Protect Youth Program

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Diocese of Phoenix is committed to the education of all people about the tragedy of child abuse, and what steps can be taken to prevent abuse. EVERY child and youth in Catholic school or religious education programs are required to receive safe environment information EVERY year.

Sixth grade students can be especially vulnerable as they begin spending more time away from their parents, their curiosity about sexual development increases, and they start testing limits and taking risks.

The Diocese of Phoenix utilizes Called to Protect™ for Youth, a three-part DVD series and guided group discussion, to teach kids how to recognize their personal boundaries, how to respond if someone tries to violate their boundaries, and what to do if someone is sexually abusing them or someone they know. These classes are offered to 6th grade students in parish religious education programs and also to 6th and 9th grade students in Catholic school.

WHO SHOULD TAKE THIS TRAINING:

- Every 6th grade student on our parish,
- Any 7th or 8th grade student who did not receive this training in the 6th grade,
- EVERY child in the 6th, 7th or 8th grade who serves in ANY ministry in the parish (CLOW, Altar Servers, Usher, Lectors, Choir, Vacation Bible School, etc.)

We are asking you to make an informed decision about the safe environment education your **student** receives by previewing the “Called to Protect for Youth” DVDs which are utilized in the program and reviewing the enclosed description of Called to Protect for Youth.

Parents (only) may attend a Called to Protect for Youth **preview** session held:

Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 6:30 pm in the Teen Center

Please contact Sharon Matson to RSVP for this preview. (see contact info below)

It is important that each youth attending the Called to Protect Training Session has parental / guardian permission. The parent preview is not mandatory. You may or may not feel it is necessary to preview this training.

The Called to Protect for Youth training will be implemented on

Sunday, Oct. 16th from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm in the Social Center.

This will take the place of R.E. class for that day. If your child does *not* return the signed acknowledgement form they will be unable to participate in the training on that day.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact the Called to Protect coordinator, Sharon Matson at 623-979-4202 or at smatson@sthelengendale.org.

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**Permission Slip to Approve or Deny the Viewing of
“Called to Protect™ for Youth” Sessions
For Youth in 6th Grade**

Parish / School	
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Youth's Name	Grade

(Please check either Approve or Deny)

(Check if Approve) **Approval of Youth Attending Training:**

By signing below, I am giving permission for my child(ren) to attend the “Called to Protect™ for Youth” education program and I have:

(Check one)

- Attended a Called to Protect for Youth overview session.

- Read the description of the Called to Protect for Youth Program.

Print Parent / Guardian Name Signature Date

(Check if Deny) **Denial of Youth Attending Training:**

By signing below I am indicating that I do not give my child(ren) permission to attend the Called to Protect for Youth Training Program.

Parent / Guardian Name Signature Date

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Description Overview of the “Called to Protect™ for Youth” Program

Research shows that child molesters use the same methods time after time, so the more youths know about how molesters operate, the safer they are. That’s where Katie and Szucceed come in. These two young adults host the series with a manner that puts kids at ease. Katie and Szucceed present just what kids need to know in a non-threatening and educationally sound way.

Part One

In Part One, Katie and Szucceed describe the three types of boundaries—physical, emotional and behavioral. They show interviews with child molesters who describe the methods they used to violate kids’ boundaries, and interviews with kids who talk about how their own boundaries were violated.

Part Two

After learning how to recognize their boundaries, kids need to know what to do if someone tries to violate them. In Part Two of Called to Protect™ for Youth, four young actors join Katie and Szucceed to demonstrate a variety of ways kids can respond. Each of the actors portrays a different personality type—shy, funny, spunky, and wholesome—so all kids watching the program learn methods that will work for them!

Part Three

For some kids, sexual abuse has already happened—or maybe it is still happening. And they haven’t told anyone. They’re living with the secret, trying to pretend that it doesn’t bother them. Katie and Szucceed show interviews with kids who have been molested, explaining why it was so difficult for them to tell someone, and present interviews with child molesters describing the methods they used to keep kids from telling. Then, Katie and Szucceed bring back their young friends to demonstrate ways kids can tell their parents or another trusted adult if someone is abusing them or someone they know.

Can I get more information about the prevention of child abuse?

The Diocese of Phoenix provides workshops for parents and other adults as part of its Safe Environment programs. The session for parents is titled Called to Protect for Parents and Families or Called to Protect for Ministries. A schedule of workshops (free of charge) is posted on the diocesan website:

<http://safeenvironmenttraining.org/classes.php>

What should I do if I learn of abuse or potential abuse?

The most important thing you can do if a child discloses abuse is to listen carefully and reassure the child that he or she did the right thing in coming forward. Let the child know that you will do whatever you can to keep him or her safe. If a volunteer, staff person or member of the clergy in a parish or school appears to have violated a minor’s boundaries, contact the supervisor of the program. If you have a reasonable belief that a child has been abused take the following steps: First, contact the police. Second, contact the Office of Child and Youth Protection at 602-354-2396.

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What parents can do to reinforce the messages received in the “Called to Protect for Youth” educational session

First, talk to your kids about their physical, emotional, and behavioral boundaries. Find out what they learned in the program.

Physical boundaries are defined by:	Emotional boundaries are defined by:	Behavioral boundaries are defined by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Who can touch you. ▪ How much they can touch you. ▪ Where they can touch you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How close you feel to a person. ▪ How much time you spend with a person. ▪ What information you share with a person. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What you will do ▪ What you won't do.

Second, pay attention to someone who crosses a child's physical, emotional or behavioral boundaries.

Physical boundary violations mean touching too much or touching in ways most adults would not touch a child. Some examples are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Roughhousing or wrestling ➤ Accidentally touching inappropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tickling ➤ Too many hugs or hugs with too much body contact, or unwanted hugs
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Emotional boundary violations mean treating the relationship with a child as if it were a romantic or intimate adult relationship. Some examples:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Spending too much time with a minor ➤ Contacting the youth too much ➤ Getting involved in too many of the child's activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ E-mailing too much ➤ Acting too possessive
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Behavioral boundary violations mean involving a child in activities that his or her parents would not allow the child to do. Some examples are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ridiculing the beliefs of a minor's parents ➤ Allowing a minor to do things against the wishes of parents ➤ Allowing a minor to look at pornography ➤ Asking a minor to keep secrets from his or her parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Offering a minor cigarettes, alcohol, or drugs ➤ Allowing a minor to visit inappropriate Web sites ➤ Giving a minor gifts without the parents' permission
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Third, be aware that fears about being in trouble or disappointing parents can keep kids from telling. Let your child know they can tell you anything and you will always love them.