

TRAINING FOR SCHOOL-AGE YOUTH

Youth in our Schools, Faith Formation and Youth Groups

Beginning August 15, 2023, *Virtus' Empowering God's Children* online lessons is the only acceptable safe environment program for school-age youth in kindergarten through grade 12 in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

This online program is presented by teachers and catechists in schools, parish faith formation, and teen group sessions. Each instructs youth about boundaries, how to recognize boundary violations, how to respond to persons who violate their boundaries, and how to report such violations to parents, family members, and other trusted adults. There are two lessons each year automatically selected to ensure grade- and age-appropriate content.

Teachers and catechists are required to document within the Virtus platform when they present the lessons. This record-keeping will ensure that all the Archdiocese of Detroit schools and parishes are following the Safe Environment requirements of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (The Dallas Charter)*.

Teen Volunteers

High school students who wish to volunteer at any AOD parish or school must complete Virtus' online workshops: *Healthy Relationships for Teens 2.0 Online Module Expansion with Safe Environment Components*. This module is accessible online through Virtus and is intended to help youth identify the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships. The module also equips teens to follow a plan to do the right thing for themselves and others upon recognizing an unhealthy situation. This module takes approximately 35 minutes to complete. To access the module, teen volunteers need to register on the Virtus site. After inputting their date of birth, the system will know they are a minor and will assign them the *Healthy Relationships for Teens 2.0* module.

Certificates and/or notification of completion of the module will be available to local Virtus administrators.

Look for an upcoming training video for teachers and catechists regarding the Empowering God's Children lessons.

Educator's Access

To access these lesson plans and to complete the required record-keeping, Teachers and Catechists require access to the Educator's tab on the platform site.

Those who do not have access to the Educator's Tab should contact their local Virtus administrator or email: protectchildren@aod.org.