



Office of the Archbishop
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May 12, 2017

Dear Chicago faithful,

We have no greater responsibility than to ensure the safety of the children in our communities. Back in September 2003, Cardinal George launched the “Covenant to Protect Children” initiative. The Office for the Protection of Children and Youth (OPCY) not only continues to carry out the tenets of this Covenant but is constantly looking at ways to improve upon it.

In the ongoing effort to improve the protection of all children, many program are being developed and updated. These are at our disposal and may be utilized to supplement our own program of instruction for adults and in the education of our children to better recognize dangerous behavior. They also provide assistance in equipping our children with important tools needed for their own protection. This year, the list of acceptable child safety education programs include:

- Praesidium’s Called to Protect
- Child Lures Prevention
- RCL Benziger’s Family Life Program
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children’s KidSmartz
- Virtus’ Teaching Touching Safety

Many of these programs are provided at no cost to the parish or school, and staff training is always available through OPCY. Please take the time to review these materials and determine which program best meets the needs of your local parish religious education program and/or Catholic school curriculum.

Along with parents, parish and school administrators, and the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth, I am committed to embracing our collective responsibility to the protection of all our children.

Please remember me in your prayers as you are in mine. With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Card. Blase Cupich".

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago