

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Faith Formation Education Program**

530 Hot Springs Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
969-4868

September 1, 2011

Dear Parents,

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Faith Formation Education Program will present a Youth Safety Program, the **VIRTUS Teaching Touching Safety Program**, to our students during 2010 & 2011. This safety class consists of a one-hour session, which will take place in a few months. We will announce the exact dates for each grade in our monthly parent letters. This personal safety program is provided to us by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and is a part of our ongoing effort throughout the country and the world to help create and maintain a safe environment for children and protect all children from sexual abuse.

As a parent, you have the right to choose whether your son or daughter participates in this program. If you were unable to attend the previous orientation meetings during the past year and have questions about this personal safety program, please contact me at 969-4868. If you did not receive the Protecting God's Children Parent/Guardian Guide during the Registration Process to this program, please contact me. If you decide that you want your child to participate in this safety program, **please fill in the permission form and return it with the registration and emergency information forms** at the start of the new school year. However, **if you do not wish your child to participate in this safety program, please contact me in the Religious Education Office to sign an "Opt-Out" form.** For more information visit the VIRTUS *Online*™ website at www.virtus.org.

Ensuring the safety of our young people truly is a challenging undertaking. We need to provide our children and teenagers with tools to help protect themselves from those wanting to harm them in any capacity. Our Religious Education catechists and staff want to become partners with you in protecting God's children.

Sincerely,

Sister Kathleen Patricia

**VIRTUS "Teaching Touching Safety" Children's Program
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
"Permission Form" 2011/2012**

Permission Form for the VIRTUS Protecting God's Children Teaching Touching Safety Program:

I am allowing my child to participate in the Protecting God's Children "Teaching Touching Safety Program" and am specifically requesting that Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Faith Formation Program present the program (2010/2011) to my son/daughter:

Child's Name: _____ Grade _____

Please Print

Parent's name (printed): _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

(Please use one form for each child in your family) ****