



CALLED TO PROTECT™ INFORMATION

August 2023

Dear Saint Eugene FSR Families,

Called to Protect™, a program which helps children protect themselves against abuse, is part of the religious education curriculum for the Diocese of Cleveland. The Diocese of Cleveland has implemented this program, a multi-media program created by Praesidium, a national leader in risk management. The Church has mandated that this material be part of the curriculum of all Parish religion education programs. The program was developed to enhance the ongoing efforts of the Catholic Church to provide training for adults and children in matters of personal safety, abuse prevention, and the creation of safe environments for children. All children in St. Eugene's FSR program will have the opportunity to participate in this program. **When we begin these sessions (as part of the day's class). This year we will begin with grades 1-6 on November 12th.** The classes will all participate separately in these lessons, except grades 7 & 8. Our Catechists have attended a training session and are prepared for the opportunity to assist you in empowering your children with the knowledge and skills to help keep *themselves* safe. The *Called To Protect™* materials are geared to specific age groups.

Children, even very young children, can learn about boundaries: what boundaries are, what to do when someone violates those boundaries, and how to tell a trusted adult when that happens. *Called to Protect™* is designed to prevent the abuse of children by giving them these skills and by facilitating conversations between children and appropriate adults about keeping safe.

This is our 13th year in which we are sharing this information with our families. Parents are invited to familiarize themselves with the content and view provided videos and lesson plans from this program at anytime in which you would like. Diana Hudock & Father Pete will be available if you have any questions or concerns.

We look forward to sharing these skills with your child. Please call Diana Hudock at the Parish office if you have any questions or concerns about this content.

If you choose to opt-out of the scheduled *Called to Protect™* lessons in the future, please contact me as soon as possible and we will make alternative plans for your child with other lesson plans.

In Christ

Father Pete Colletti
Diana Hudock – Pastoral Minister
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