



"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." Heb. 13:8

Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Office of the Archbishop

May 15, 2008

Dear Archdiocesan, Parish and School Employees, and Volunteers,

Thank you for all you do in service of the Church!

The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, along with Catholic dioceses across the country, has made a strong commitment to help protect children from sexual abuse.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (2002 and 2005)* and archdiocesan policy mandates that all clergy and archdiocesan, parish and school employees, as well as all volunteers who have contact with minors attend safe environment training.

Since May 2005, more than 32,000 adults in this Archdiocese have attended VIRTUS: *Protecting God's Children for Adults* safe environment training. More than 1,000 of these three-hour sessions have been held in locations across the Archdiocese to make session attendance as convenient as possible. All upcoming sessions are listed online at www.virtus.org.

Parish and school leaders are required to make sure those required to attend VIRTUS do so. I encourage you to attend a VIRTUS session before you anticipate beginning service in a Catholic parish or school.

I pray that we may continue to work together to make our homes, schools and churches safer environments for all God's children.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John Nienstedt
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis