

TO: Parents And Adults Who Are Concerned About Child Safety  
FROM: The Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington; Office of Safe Environments  
RE: The Protecting God's Children Program for Adults

### **Using the Church to Protect Children**

For any organization, the best practice to prevent wrongdoing, including child sexual abuse, is to have an organization use its own people to facilitate awareness of the issue. The PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN program begins with the training of internal facilitators—individuals selected by the archdiocese, diocese, or religious organization to train other adults and parents on how to best protect children. We use facilitator-led awareness sessions and web-based training so that participants learn the best methods for delivering their message, including the training for the PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN program.

### **Training Adults to Protect Children**

We begin by making adults of the Church that interact with children aware of how to protect children. Our PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN program for adults is a three to four hour awareness session that instructs adults of the Church that interact with children that to protect children you must have continuous awareness and vigilance. This awareness session makes trainees understand the signs of child sexual abuse, the methods and means by which offenders commit abuse and five empowerment steps one can use to prevent child sexual abuse.

### **How to participate in the Protecting God's Children Program for Adults at IHM**

- [Read the PRACTICAL ADVISE FOR PARENTS HANDBOOK](#)
- Watch the bulletin for times and locations of area training sessions.