

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child, being formed as a disciple of Jesus by you as well as through our curriculum, is one of the most precious gifts you will receive.

Because we believe so strongly in the importance of being faithful to this call, we take special steps to make sure our children are aware of what it means to create a safe environment for themselves.

Safe environment education is not education for human and sexual development. It is rather an effort to train young people to recognize when adults or others behave in an inappropriate manner toward them, how to resist, and to report any and all attempts.

Age appropriate information is integrated into the lesson plan taught at each grade level. The curricular points covered in your child's class are listed below. We encourage you to discuss these points with your child. Parents are primary educators of their children and studies have shown that children listen when parents take the time to talk with their children.

Today your child learned about appropriate boundaries through the early childhood Safe Environment Program provided by our Diocese. This lesson began with reinforcing that each child is very special in God's eyes. We taught the children that their bodies are a gift from God. They learned that their private parts are covered by a bathing suit and that no one can ask to see or touch their private parts unless it is for safety or health reasons.

Each child made a "God Made Me Special" craft and was able to identify that their private parts are covered by a bathing suit. As a follow up to this lesson we identified trusted adults in your child's life and we encouraged the children to talk to a trusted adult in every situation. Within this lesson, we read the story, "Designed By God So I Must Be Special" and sang the song "Jesus Loves Me." Both the story and the song helped to assure the children that they are special and loved by God.

We recommend that you talk to your child about this lesson. Listed below are books that we recommend for you to reinforce and expand this lesson at home.

- "Never Talk to Strangers" by Irma Joyce
- "Your Body Belongs to You" by Maude Spelman
- You can find a sample of the song "I Am Special" by Dr. Thomas Moore on You Tube. We sang this song to remind the children that they are a very special part of God's family.

If you have questions, please call us. Thank you for your concern, your care and your dedication to the formation of your child. Thank you for entrusting the precious gift of your child to us.

Sincerely in Christ,