

A Minute with the Office for the



Protection of Children and Youth

This year's **Annual Audit Reporting** is complete with 95% of parishes and schools able to complete the report. OPCY will continue to work with those parishes and schools that had difficulty with the Report in order to get the necessary information for compliance.

Thank you to all the people in our parishes and schools that worked so hard to get the Report in on time!

Those parishes with trained Site Administrators were able to provide their compliance data much easier than those without a trained person on site. The Safe Environment Office offers training on a regular basis. If your parish or school does not have a trained Site Administrator, contact Mayra Flores at 312-534- 5238 for information on the next training date or go to [Training](#) for more information.

The Archdiocese requires all clerics, all employees, and all volunteers who work with children to undergo training and background checks. The process for background checks begins with [eApps Registration](#). **Remember State Law** requires all school employees to be fingerprinted.

Hope and Healing Mass

The 5th annual Mass for Hope and Healing will be at Holy Family Church, 1080 Roosevelt Road, Chicago, on October 29, 2016, at 11:00 am. The Mass was created by victims/survivors, clergy and OPCY staff.

The Healing Garden, located next to Holy Family Parish, is intended to be a symbol that invites reconciliation, healing, and eventual freedom, not only for survivors and their families, but also for the larger family of the Catholic Church. All are welcome.



For those seeking support, the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Assistance Ministry may be able to help. The Office works to support all efforts victims-survivors make to achieve psychological, emotional, and spiritual healing. For more information, call 312-534-8267, or [email](#) us or go to the website [Assistance Ministry](#)



Protecting God's Children

This training program teaches adults to spot grooming behavior in adults who may attempt to harm our children. Common warning sign behaviors include adults who:

- Discourage other adults from participating
- Show a preference for being alone with children
- Give gifts, often without permission
- Wrestle, tickle, or are excessively physical with children,
- Use bad language, tells “dirty” jokes, “accidentally” show children pornography
- Think the rules do not apply to them.

What if a child discloses?

This question is a concern of many people after attending a training class. Disclosure: telling someone what you experienced, sharing a secret... a process that is scary for the victim-survivor, and can be stressful for the person hearing the story, when the secret is abuse. How do you best react when you hear of abuse to facilitate healing? How does your reaction differ if the person is a child, a SPRED participant, a vulnerable adult? What is your role as a teacher, a catechist, a youth minister? How do you deal with your own feelings?

Responding with loving compassion and reporting the disclosure to the proper state authorities are the keys to fulfilling these goals. For more information log on to the [Virtus site](#) Find **Resources** on the left menu under **Educators** tab.

The Protecting God’s Children training teaches adults to **Communicate Concerns** if they witness these behaviors. If a parent reports such concerns, we must learn to take them seriously and follow up with that information.

To read the **Training Bulletins**, Sign into the [Virtus site](#), on the right side of the page find Training Bulletin Report, click the phrase (**click here to see full report**). This opens your Training Bulletin Report to show the number of bulletins you have completed and missed. Click the phrase (**click here for details**) you will see a list of bulletins Read and Not Read.

If you have any questions about protecting children in the Archdiocese of Chicago, contact OPCY at 312-534-5254 or visit our [website](#).

