

Dear Volunteer:

Among God's greatest gifts to us are our children and youth. They are the hope of our future. Love impels us to reach out to them with great tenderness as they reach towards maturity. And yet, despite our best efforts there is one nightmare which no young person should have to face and no parent should have to worry about: child sexual abuse.

It happens in the most unlikely places and is committed by people we fully expected to be trust worthy. It happens in day care centers, in our schools and schools of religion, in our youth programs, in our homes, and in communities of every faith. When a child becomes the victim of sexual abuse, it's always a tragedy and a serious tragedy, but even more so when it involves the Church.

As part of its ongoing effort to protect the young people we serve, the Diocese of Columbus is offering a training program called **Protecting God's Children**. Volunteers such as you are indispensable to our program. Because you will be working with our young people, your attendance is required by the diocese. Your participation will help to ensure the safest possible environment for our young people.

For your convenience, a **Protecting God's Children** training session will be held:

Date
Start Time – End Time
Location

Please register using the steps provided. If you are unable to attend this session, you may attend any other session in the diocese. Additional dates and locations are available during the online registration process.

Children, our own and the children of the community need us. Not a few, not a handful, but all of us. By working together, we can stop the abuse now before it starts. It is up to us as Catholics, as parents, as members of the human race to guide, love, and protect all of God's children.

Thank you for offering your time and talents to work with the children and youth of our program. If you have any questions regarding this training program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,