



MEMORANDUM

TO: Pastors and Parochial Administrators; Director, Human Resources; Director, Safe Environment/Immigration; Superintendent, Catholic Schools Office; Director, Office of Faith Formation

FROM: Bishop Hartmayer + *SH*

CC: Principals

DATE: August 15, 2014

RE: Safe Environment Training Programs for the Diocese of Savannah

Peace and all good things!

Article 12 of the Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* states that dioceses are to maintain "safe environment" programs which the diocesan bishop deems to be in accord with Catholic moral principles.

In accordance with this article, it is my determination that the VIRTUS *Protecting God's Children for Adults* program, used in this diocese since September 2003, the *Child Lures* School Program, utilized in the diocesan Catholic schools since January 2005, the Georgia Department of Education Quality Core Curriculum Standards for Health Safety mandated for use in Georgia public schools, and the VIRTUS *Teaching Touching Safety* program, available for use in both diocesan schools and parish religious education programs since Fall 2009, are not in contravention with the teachings of the Catholic Church and meet the requirements for safe environment training for adults and school children in the Diocese of Savannah.