

Hosting PGC Sessions

Parishes are encouraged to host PGC. Classes can be as small as 15 or as large as 150, depending on the equipment limitations of the site. To arrange a PGC session at your parish, contact Barb Cain, 614-241-2565 or bcain@cducation.org.

How do I find where the sessions are being held?

The current schedule is always posted on the VIRTUS website.

Go to: www.virtus.org. Click on the Yellow Registration button just beneath the login.

Choose "View a List of Sessions."

Registration is also done from this site, and pre-registration is required.

I was sexually abused and am concerned about attending PGC.

Some abuse victims have found the PGC awareness sessions upsetting. Those who would prefer an alternative program to the class are asked to call Barb Cain at 614-241-2565. Your concern will be kept confidential.

Establishing a Safe Environment

A fundamental goal of the Catholic Church is to prevent future occurrences of sexual abuse of children by anyone associated with the Church. In 2003, the Diocese of Columbus published its decree which established policies dealing with allegations of sexual abuse of minors.

One of those policies was the creation of a Safe Environment Program designed to protect children while they are in the care, custody or control of any person working on behalf of the Church.

Protecting God's Children™ training is just one step of the overall Safe Environment Program.

Diocesan Contact

Do you have questions, concerns or positive comments about the program? Please contact:

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Safe Environment Consultant
614-241-2565
rquinn@cducation.org

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
197 E Gay St., 3rd Fl.
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Catholic Diocese of
Columbus

Protecting God's
Children™

*1 out of every 4 girls
1 out of every 10 boys
is sexually abused
by the age of 18*

*Help us prevent this from
happening.*

Rev. 10/29/08

What *is* Protecting God's Children™ (PGC)?

Protecting God's Children™ is a three-hour introductory workshop designed to raise awareness about the reality of child sexual abuse. Through videos and facilitated group discussion format, the session helps participants become more familiar with the issues and myths surrounding child sexual abuse; signs of sexual abuse in children; behavioral patterns of perpetrators; steps the Church is taking to prevent future abuse; and a plan of action for adults to remain watchful for would-be perpetrators.

What PGC *isn't*!

PGC is *not* a punishment or an accusation against volunteers. On the contrary it illustrates how, through increased awareness and vigilance, all adults can become part of the solution to stopping child sexual abuse.

PGC is *not* intended to be catechetical in nature and assumes participants have other opportunities for catechesis on the Church's teaching on chastity and human sexuality.

Why is it important to attend a session?

If we want to prevent predators from gaining access to our children, we need to know what to watch for, how to spot and handle situations before they escalate, and how to report suspected abuse.

Who is allowed to take it?

Any adult who is interested in learning how protect children from sexual abuse is welcome to attend. Being a volunteer is not a requirement. (However due to the content, minors are not allowed.)

Who is required to take it?

The following adults are required to attend Protecting God's Children:

-All parish, school and diocesan employees, *regardless of their level of contact with children*

-All clergy and applicants to clerical formation who serve in the diocese

-Every volunteer in a school, program or ministry for children and youth, *regardless of their level of contact with children*

-Volunteers for *other* parish programs or ministries who have been delegated care, custody or control of children

What other participants have said about PGC

"Very informative! Thank you so much for this program."

"I didn't want to take PGC, but it was excellent. All parents should be required to attend."

"The statistics were shocking."

"Keep up the great work!"

"I never knew how calculating child predators are; this opened my eyes."

"Very worthwhile. I will recommend to others to take the program."

"Having been abused, all info very true and dead-on accurate. Tell your participants – Believe your statistics!"

"I'm very thankful this was offered."

Continuing Education Requirements

All clergy and lay people who serve in leadership positions within the Church are required to complete ongoing VIRTUS training. Access to continuing training bulletins can be granted to others upon request.