



St. Mary Catholic Schools

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August 21st, 2008

Dear Parents,

The topic of sexual abuse is difficult to address, but is an important topic for all parents to discuss. Rather than shying away from the issue of sexual abuse, the Catholic Church has instead taken the lead in combating sexual abuse. Following the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the Diocese of Sioux Falls has committed itself to annual training of all students, staff, parents, and volunteers to provide a safe environment in all of its schools and parishes.

In order to meet this, we are holding Safe Environment trainings for all our parents. We must have **all** our parents trained in this program. This program will not only ensure safety from abuse, but will also raise awareness of the ongoing challenge of abusive behavior in our society at large.

Training can now be completed in the comfort of your own home! There is an on-line version of the training. Directions on how to complete the training and links to the training are available at our school website (www.stmarycatholicschools.com). Those parents and staff who have completed the program state it is very easy and only takes roughly 30 minutes.

I encourage you complete this training as soon as possible. You will need to run off your certificate of completion and send it to school with your child. All certificates received by October 1st will be entered into a drawing for FREE SCRIP PRIZES!

Remember this is a requirement for **ALL** parents of children here at St. Mary Catholic Schools! Before you can volunteer or drive our students anywhere, you need to complete this training. The more we know about this topic, the more effective we can be in keeping our children safe. If you have any questions, please feel free to give Mrs. Neill a call.

God Bless!

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Our Mission

St. Mary Catholic School strives for a united community of academic excellence and stewardship by embracing the Gospel and carrying the light of Christ.