



**From the Offices of: Fr. Bill Schreiber
Sacred Heart Parish**

**Ron Olberding
Sacred Heart School Principal**

**Gwen Kardell
Sacred Heart Parish VIRTUS Coordinator**

**We are pleased to have Kris McDermott
Sacred Heart Parish Member as Trainer for this program!**

Last year **over 400 parents volunteered in our school and parish** to make all the children and youth activities possible. Obviously we have an abundance of generous parents and adults who are concerned about and involved in the lives of their own children as well as the lives of others.

By taking the VIRTUS training, parents and other adults are free to be as involved in their children's lives as possible here at Sacred Heart School, Parish, and the Faith Formation programs.

Why parents should take the VIRTUS Training
This might seem punitive but it is a positive thing for our people. All parents want to keep their children safe. This program definitely helps them:

- The VIRTUS Program helps parents/adults identify ways in which children might be put in danger. As one parent said: *"This program was a real eye-opener for me."*
- A public school teacher commented that the 3-hour VIRTUS Program was the best she had seen on recognizing and preventing sexual abuse of a child.
- The VIRTUS Program can help to protect you as an adult from putting yourself in a vulnerable situation.
- Kris McDermott, one of our parish trainers for VIRTUS had these comments: *"For a minimal amount of time, this puts all of us on the same page. I really believe every parent who takes this program will be grateful that they did. VIRTUS prepares us for so many areas of life."*

We are strongly encouraging every volunteer to attend a VIRTUS training in continuing the protection of themselves and the children of Sacred Heart.

VIRTUS trained parents/adults will be chosen first for activities such as playground, lunchroom, field trips, etc.

The Diocese mandates any volunteer in our total parish and school that has contact with children or youth more than once a month in the parish or school, or if the activity involves overnight presence of the adult, or the adult is alone with the child or young person must be certified by the VIRTUS Program. This would include volunteer drivers if they are the only adult in the vehicle.

VIRTUS creates a Safe Environment for all the youth of our parish and school. Please consider signing up and taking a VIRTUS session offered below. The VIRTUS Class is a one-time attendance-good for all volunteer areas of the School and Parish.

**Thank you for your time, talents, and support of Sacred Heart!
WE ARE BECAUSE OF YOU!**

Please complete and save for your records. Thank you.

YES, I will attend a VIRTUS TRAINING on:

Name: _____ Sun., November 5, 2017 6pm Fireside Room _____
 Sun., February 18, 2018 6pm Fireside Room _____
 Phone # _____ Sun., May 6, 2018 6pm Fireside Room _____
 Address _____
 Email _____

VIRTUS Training

Encouraged for all Volunteers

The next scheduled **VIRTUS** training sessions at Sacred Heart Parish will be **Sun., November 5th, 2017 6pm** **Sacred Heart Parish Fireside Room.** (located in the back - north parking lot - east door) We are pleased to have in-parish trainer ~ **Kris McDermott** as the facilitator.

What is VIRTUS? The VIRTUS or Protecting God's Children program discusses the warning signs of an inappropriate relationship between a child and an adult or older child—warning signs that can help us identify potential abuse before it happens. VIRTUS is a ONE TIME CLASS and all who attend learn the same way to protect our youth AND self as a volunteer.

Who is it mandatory for?

Anyone 18 and older who fits one or more of the following criteria:

- **ALL SACRED HEART STAFF**
- **VOLUNTEERS who work with children on a regular basis such as lunchroom & playground duty/catechist/sponsor**
- **Works one-on-one with one or more children/youth on regular basis**
- **Driver for field trips, class parties & outings**
- **Chaperones an overnight trip, including Camp CAYOCA, MS/HS Conferences**
- **Volunteer with Vacation Bible School**



Should I attend?

YES—if you volunteer in any of our parish/school/religious education programs!

YES—if you want to chaperone any Sacred Heart school/parish activity (Youth Conferences, Totus Tuus, Camp CAYOCA)

YES—if you wish to be a Confirmation sponsor

YES—if you want valuable information for protecting yourself and our parish children

YES, YES, YES—this program is open to ANY and ALL adults in our parish or community

If you have any questions or concerns, or to register- please contact VIRTUS Coordinator, gwen Kardell at 262-3047.

**IT IS REQUIRED BY THE DIOCESE OF SIOUX CITY
TO PRE-REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE VIRTUS SESSIONS
PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE ATTENDING**

(If you are having any difficulty registering on line-please feel free to contact gwen Kardell at
gwenkardell@spencersacredheart.com or 262-3047

REMINDER for VIRTUS Training

**6pm Sunday, November 5th, 2017
Where: Sacred Heart ~ Fireside Room**

PLEASE complete the *VIRTUS Online* Registration:

- 1- Go to www.virtusonline.org.
 - 2- Click on "First Time Registrant"
 - 3- Choose "Begin Registration Process". If you do not know which session you plan to attend, you may also select "View a List of Sessions."
 - 4- Select "Sioux City, IA (Diocese)" from the drop down menu.
 - 5- Create a user ID and password and click "continue"
 - 6- Fill out the profile sheet, including email address. If no email, enter noemail@virtus.org.
 - 7- Select the primary location where you work or volunteer and click "continue."
 - 8- If you need to add additional locations, you may do so at the next screen. Click "continue."
 - 9- Select all role(s) that apply to your ministry and click "continue."
 - 10- Answer "yes" or "no" to the three questions and click "continue."
 - 11- Indicate if you have already attended a training session.
 - 12- If you chose "no" in the above step, you will see a list of upcoming sessions for you to choose from. Click on the circle next to the session you wish to attend.
 - 13- If you chose "yes" to step 10, you will see the list of sessions that have been held in the Diocese. Click the circle next to the one you attended.
- NOW COMPLETE THE ESR BACKGROUND CHECK.**
- 14- A confirmation message will appear that you have successfully completed the registration process.