

Fall, 2005

Dear Parent(s),

In 2003 the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote a charter for the protection of children and young people called: **“Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal”**. This charter was in response to the clergy sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church. We value the trust you put in us in placing your children in our care. Keeping them smart and safe is of utmost importance to us. We can not take back the past, but we can put programs and procedures in place that keep our children as safe as possible. We know that you want this also. We are offering a two-part program that addresses the issue of sexual abuse prevention.

As Archbishop William Levada was getting ready to leave for his new position in Rome he asked that all parents attend a **Parent Workshop** of the **KIDWISE program, “Out of Harm’s Way”**. This program is a powerful, thought-provoking parent education workshop that teaches proven and effective methods to keep children safe from predators in today’s ever-challenging world. By attending the workshop parents receive a 60-page parent guide filled with exercises on how to be a helpful, not fearful parent, the “Five-P’s” of personal safety, making your family less vulnerable, the power of open safe communication, the role of healthy self-esteem in keeping children safe, how to make your children “lure resistant”, and practical ideas for making personal safety an integral part of your family life. This workshop will be offered in your parish or school.

The second part of the program is entitled **Smart Kids/Safe Kids**, which is a one-session program for your children as part of their school or religious education curriculum. There are also some self-defense techniques that your children will learn. We are sensitive to the rights of the family on such a delicate subject and would like to let you know in advance what your child will be taught. Our program uses several Scripture references as a foundation and we will address the following in grades K-6: sacredness of the body, recognizing sexual abuse and No, Go, and Tell. In grades 7-8, we cover the concept of grooming; how to recognize it, respond to it, and tell about it.

The enclosed page covers the information that will be presented by grade level. If you have questions about how this program will be presented you can contact me or your school principal/director of religious education.

May God bless you and your family as we all work together to keep our children safe from harm.

Sincerely,

Barbara Elordi  
Safe Environment Coordinator  
Archdiocese of San Francisco