

# VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***What is VIRTUS?***

VIRTUS is the brand name that identifies programs designed to help prevent awareness to sexual misconduct wrongdoing and promote “right-doing.” The VIRTUS programs empower organizations and people to better control risk and improve the lives of all those who interact with the Church.

### ***What is VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children?***

VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children (VIRTUS) is a live, three-hour awareness session for adults which better equips adults to protect children in the world around them. VIRTUS sessions are scheduled at parishes and schools throughout the diocese and throughout the year.

### ***Who is required to attend a VIRTUS session?***

These individuals are required to attend a VIRTUS session:

- ☐ All Clerics (Priests & Deacons)
- ☐ All Seminarians and Deaconate Candidates
- ☐ All diocesan, parish, and school employees (Including employed minors 16 and over)
- ☐ Volunteers who have regular or unsupervised contact with minors

### ***I hold a professional license, am I still required to attend a VIRTUS session?***

Yes, regardless of any licensing, training, profession, or experiences you have if you are going to volunteer with minors or be employed by the diocese, a parish, or a school you must attend a VIRTUS session. This **includes**, but is not limited to: law enforcement, nurses, doctors, counselors, psychologists, teachers, substitute teachers, administrators, and probation officers.

### ***I attended a VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children awareness session in another arch/diocese; do I need to attend another session in this diocese?***

No, if you attended a live 3-hour session, you do not need to attend another VIRTUS session in this diocese. Please have your local safe environment coordinator email the diocesan safe environment office personnel and let us know what diocese you attended a session in as well as the location within the diocese and the approximate date of the session you attended. We will then verify your attendance and transfer your VIRTUS account to this diocese.

### ***I received Safe Environment training at the diocese where I used to serve. Must I attend a VIRTUS session here?***

Yes, unless the safe environment training you received was VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children, live 3-hour session.

### ***How do I know when and where sessions are available?***

Sessions will be offered on a regular basis throughout the Diocese. Check the diocesan Web site [www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org) or your parish/school office. On the Web site click on Safe Environment Registration, and respond to the questions.

***How do I register to attend a VIRTUS session?***

Again, go to [www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org)

1. Click on the "Safe Environment Registration" link in the left-hand column.
2. Create your own "User ID" and "Password".
3. Follow the screen prompts to continue the online registration.

***How do I register if I do not have internet access?***

It is very important that you register in advance for the session you plan to attend because space may be limited and walk-ins may not be easily accommodated. If you do not have internet access, you may have someone else register you online. If you have no means of registering online, you should contact your local parish or Catholic school for assistance.

***How do I know that I am registered for the session I selected?***

You may go to the VIRTUS site and login with your USER ID and PASSWORD to view your registration information.

***My colleagues have received an email confirmation from VIRTUS that their registration has been accepted, but I have not received a confirmation. Why?***

Check your spam or junk mail folder. Sometimes security settings do not allow you to receive emails from [system@virtus.org](mailto:system@virtus.org). Within your email program, allow for [system@virtus.org](mailto:system@virtus.org) emails so that they are not filtered out as spam/junk. You may have typed your email address incorrectly. Login to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org), click on "Update My Account" to check your email. You will need to notify [safe\\_environment@dnv.org](mailto:safe_environment@dnv.org) and correct your email address if necessary.

***How do I change the email address in my account at www.virtus.org ?***

You will need to email [safe\\_environment@dnv.org](mailto:safe_environment@dnv.org) with the change request.

***How do I know if a session has been cancelled due to bad weather?***

If parish events or school classes are cancelled where the VIRTUS session will be taking place, the session will likely be cancelled. You will receive an email notice if the session is cancelled and the diocesan Safe Environment coordinator has been notified.

***How will my parish or school know that I have attended a VIRTUS session?***

When you register online, make sure to note any parishes and/or Catholic schools where you work or volunteer. After you attend a session, your name will appear on lists of approved VIRTUS attendees for those parishes and/or schools. Designated contact persons at parishes and schools are able to securely access these lists at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

***What is VIRTUS Online?***

VIRTUS Online is the Web-based platform that provides 24 hours, seven days a week access to ongoing awareness education. Employees and volunteers are assigned this online training according to a schedule:

- Volunteers: Assigned an annual module each fall
- Employees: Assigned quarterly modules
- Clergy and Safe Environment Program Coordinators & Training Facilitators: Assigned monthly bulletins

Anyone may read featured articles at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) at any time. There is a new article there every 2 to 4 weeks. You don't even have to sign-in to read the general article.

***If I am assigned the online training, how do I know when the next training is assigned and available for me to read?***

You should receive an email from system@virtus.org sent to the email address you entered when registering online.

***How do I access my online training at www.virtus.org?***

Access your online training by logging on to www.virtus.org, then clicking on the "My Training" tab at the top of the page. Your current training report will appear. Please note that if you are not a member of the monthly bulletin group previously identified you do not need to read them but they may appear on your report long with the modules that you are required to complete. You access each training module assigned by clicking on that title.

***Why do the monthly bulletins show up even if I may not be required to complete them?*** The New Ulm Diocese is one of the few dioceses throughout the country that has the varied training assignments—the annual requirement for volunteers and the quarterly for most employees. The company will not delete the monthly bulletins from appearing for just a few dioceses.

***Whom should I contact if I have any additional questions, comments or concerns?***

Please contact your local safe environment coordinator if you prefer to meet with someone face to face to assist you. You may contact your local safe environment coordinator (Area Faith Community/Parish office) or you may contact the diocesan VIRTUS database manager by email at [safe\\_environment@dnv.org](mailto:safe_environment@dnv.org) or by phone at 507-233-5308.