

*St. Mary, Our Lady of Ransom
317 Broad Street
Georgetown, SC 29440*

September 1, 2009

Dear Parents:

As you are aware, one of the goals of our St. Mary's Parish community is to have all of its members, including our children, be part of a Safe Environment. The Safe Environment Program (VIRTUS) must be presented to all children in our CCD program and in our Youth Groups every year. We have presented this program to our children for the past four years. This program is provided to us by the Charleston Diocese and is a part of our ongoing effort to help create and maintain a safe environment for children and to protect our children from various forms of abuse. You may visit the VIRTUS website at www.virtus.org.

This lesson will be part of CCD instruction sometime during the month of October. As a parent, you have the right to choose whether your child participates. If you have questions about the program or the lesson, please contact me at 527-2880. If you determine that you **do not** want your child to participate, please complete the "opt-out" form below and return it to CCD before Sunday, September 27, 2009.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Pittman
Director of Religious Education

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_____ St. Mary's CCD Program and St. Mary's Youth Group **do not** have my permission to present the Safe Environment Program to my child.

Child's Name _____

Parent's Signature _____

A Promise to Protect ~ A Pledge to Heal