

Can You Volunteer?

If you are interested in volunteering to work with or support programs involving children in the school or parish, there are some things you need to know.

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati implemented a program in 1993 called "The Decree on Child Abuse." It was replaced by the March, 1998 "The Decree on Child Protection." The program has evolved into a comprehensive seminar on the policies of the Archdiocese as it concerns our children.

As the updated policy states, all volunteers who will be in contact with diocesan children must attend one of these sessions. **Effective March, 2003, only those volunteers who have attended Child Protection Decree Training and provide proof of attendance will be permitted to work with our children in a school or parish activity.**

The Decree on Child Protection has a two-fold purpose: "to prevent the abuse of children and adolescents, and to provide a pastoral response to incidents of abuse after they occur."

You need only attend one session, which is offered at various times and locations.

Regular volunteers working in the following areas must attend this training (please realize this is NOT an all-inclusive list): classroom volunteers, playground monitor, cafeteria workers, field trip and activity chaperones, homeroom parents and ANYONE who will come into contact with children should plan on attending. If you have questions about whether you should attend one of the meetings, please call Gerry Dupree at 426-1733.

The date of the next Child Protection Decree Training Session is available from the school or parish office. Advanced registration is not required. Please, make plans to attend a session if you are planning to volunteer in the school or in support of parish activities involving children.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in keeping our children safe!