

# VIRTUS TRAINING

## Volunteer Screening Process

To maintain the highest level of safety not only for our children and our volunteers, St. Rita Parish is continuing to adopt a screening process for all employees and volunteers who have access to our students.

“*Virtus*” is a Latin word that means, “*valor or moral excellence.*” The Virtus Program assists our Church in being a safe haven for children and a messenger for preventing child sexual abuse within the Church and society in general.

**If you wish to volunteer in our school**--chaperone field trips, volunteer for lunch monitor, help during classroom holiday parties, coach a CYO team, volunteer in the library, etc.-- you must attend one, 3-hour Virtus training session. Once you have completed your training sessions, you will receive a certificate--a copy of which will be kept on file in our School and Parish offices.

**If you are new to St. Rita School, and are already VIRTUS Trained**, please provide a copy of your certification to our School offices. You will still need to perform a Criminal Background Check.

### **Our Screening Process includes four areas:**

1. A signed acknowledgment form must be on file with the parish office that you possess and have read a copy of the “*Policy for the Safety of Children in Matters of Sexual Abuse*” written by the Diocese of Cleveland.
2. A signed acknowledgment form must be on file with the parish office that you possess, have read, and will comply with the “*Standards of Conduct for Ministry*” written by the Diocese of Cleveland.
3. You must make an appointment with our Parish Offices (440-248-1350, ext. 100) to perform a Criminal Background Check. Our fingerprinting machine is located in the main office, which is next to the Little Falcon Learning Center. (There is a voluntary \$24 fee which helps cover the costs incurred by the parish for performing each Criminal Background Check.)
4. You must attend one 3-hour training course, followed up by monthly articles which you must read. These articles are distributed via email. There is no cost to attend a VIRTUS training session. VIRTUS sessions are held all throughout the diocese, including St. Rita Parish. Visit the VIRTUS website, [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) and click on ‘registration’. Next, click on ‘view a list of sessions’ then select ‘Cleveland Diocese’. (You only need to attend one session during your time at the Little Falcon Learning Center and St. Rita School.)

