



## Empowering God's Children & Young People® Overview



The Los Angeles Archdioceses Office of Safeguard the Children has developed a new K-12 “Empowering God’s Children” Safety Program for schools and Religious Education Programs throughout the Archdioceses. This replaces the old VIRTUS© Teaching Touching Safety Program. The new program is designed to help children and young people know they have the power to protect themselves from harmful or threatening situations and always to aim to keep themselves safe and healthy.

### Components of the New Program

- Catechetical Connection
- Easy to Use Lesson Plans
- Variety of Classroom Activities
- Take Home Activity

### Three-Year Cycle

Empowering God’s Children© will remain on the three-year cycle.

<b>Year 1:</b>	<b>2023 - 2024</b>	<b>Safe and Unsafe Touching Rules - K-8 Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships - 9-12</b>
<b>Year 2:</b>	<b>2024 – 2025</b>	<b>Boundaries &amp; Bullying - K-12</b>
<b>Year 3:</b>	<b>2025 – 2026</b>	<b>Internet and Technology Safety - K-12</b>

**Lesson Plans:** <https://lacatholics.org/empowering-gods-children/>

### Completion of Lessons and Reporting

February 1, 2025, all lessons must be completed.

February 15, 2025, all lessons must be reported on VIRTUS®

Online: <https://www.virtusonline.org/educators/>

### For More Information

Office of Safeguard the Children

Brenda Cabrera

[bmelendez@la-archdiocese.org](mailto:bmelendez@la-archdiocese.org)

(213) 637-7508