

Archdiocese of St. Louis – Christian Witness Statement

For Those Seeking to Enroll Their Children in Catholic School or **Parish School of Religion**

One of the blessings of marriage is bringing forth new life. God entrusts children to parents who have a primary right and duty to educate their children in the practice of the faith. Parents carry out this responsibility by creating a home full of love, forgiveness, respect and fidelity. The family is community in which, from childhood, one honors God and learns moral values.

In the right of the Sacrament of Baptism, parents receive the following call from God to evangelize their children:

You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training her (him) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring her (him) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor... You will be the first teachers of your child in the ways of the faith. May you be also the best of teachers, bearing witness of the faith by what you say or do, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

No wonder, then, that the Church understands the home to be the domestic church. It is in the intimate environment of the family that parents are, by word and example, the first heralds of the faith with respect to their children. This environment is enhanced and deepened through the parish Eucharistic community that is the heart of the spiritual life for Christian families.

Catholic schools and parish religion education programs are in partnership with the family in proclaiming and witnessing to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. They assist parents in fulfilling their responsibility as the primary religious educators of their children. This partnership works best when parents respect the beliefs of the Church and live lives in a manner that reflects these beliefs. If parents reject the beliefs of the Church or live lives in conflict with these teachings, catechizing young people becomes very difficult.

Aware, then, of the dignity of this holy parental call, and with reverent awe for that responsibility which is mine, I commit myself to be, in word and example, the first and best teacher of my children in the faith. Practically, this means I will:

- Understand that authentic teachings of Jesus as taught by the Catholic Church will be part of my child's education and formation.
- To the best of my ability respect the teachings of the Church and help my children respect the Church and its teachings.

Continued on back side - please sign commitment form

- Regularly participate in the Sunday Eucharist with my family (if not Catholic, support my children’s participation in the Church of Baptism), include prayer in my daily life and form my children in the faith.
- Commit to speak frequently with my children about God and to include prayer in our daily home life.
- Participate in and cooperate with School or Parish School of Religion in programs that enable me as a parent to take an active role in the religious education of my children, including sacramental preparation for Catholic children.
- Support the moral and social doctrine of the Catholic Church to ensure consistency between home and school.
- Teach my children by word and example to have a love and concern for the needs of others.
- Meet my financial responsibility in supporting the Catholic school or the Parish School of Religion.
- Practice stewardship in support of the parish.

Signature of the parent(s)/Guardian(s) 1. _____

2. _____

Name of the Parish _____

Name of the pastor _____

Signature of the pastor/Administrator _____

Date _____

SAFE TOUCH

GRADES 1 - 8

Safe Touch Program Goals:

1. To provide information at age-appropriate levels to make children aware of the concepts of safe touch vs. inappropriate touch.
2. What a bad person/predator looks like (could be a stranger or family friend.)
3. How to say NO and be able to get away from bad situations.
4. How to report concerns to a safe adult.
5. To provide information at age-appropriate levels regarding the Internet: Club Penguin, Face Book and other social networking sites.

This program is designated to help children identify situations or events that do not feel safe to them. Many times children fail to recognize the danger of being in situations with someone who is not being appropriate. This is why this program is strongly focused on helping children to recognize events and feelings that alert them to situations that may not be right.

I understand Safe Touch will be presented to my child during PSR.

Parent signature_____

GOD'S OWN MAKING

GRADES 4 - 8

Presented during the month of February

Each year St. Alban Roe PSR incorporates a human sexuality component into the Religion Curriculum in grades 4 – 8. Catholic young people need and have the right to know the positive values we hold as a faith community regarding God's gift of human sexuality.

The ***God's Own Making: Catholic Values of Human Sexuality*** program was implemented by our former Archbishop, Justin Rigali. The purpose of this program is not to impart biological information, but to focus on the moral and religious dimension of human sexuality.

If you would like to see the information being presented to the students please stop by the PSR office during the month of January.

_____ **YES**, I would like my child/children to participate in God's Own Making

_____ **NO**, I do not want my child/children to participate in God's Own Making

Parent signature_____

PSR Policies and Procedures
Please read and sign

PSR Arrival – All Sessions

All students in grades 1 – 7 should arrive at the Parish Life Center no more than 5 minutes early for class (unless parent is volunteering). Students are to go directly to their classroom. If the teacher is not in the room, students are to wait quietly in the hall. If you arrive more than 5 minutes early, please wait with your child in the Common area. **Students in 8th grade** should arrive at Alban Hall no more than 5 minutes early for class (unless parent is volunteering)

PSR Departure – All Sessions

All students in grades 1 – 7 are to be picked up and signed out from their classroom by an adult. **Students in 8th grade** are to be picked up from Alban Hall.

EARLY DEPARTURE

We understand that you may need to occasionally pick your child up early from class. If so, please send a note to your child's catechist informing them of this. **We ask that you come into the PSR office and sign your child out.** No child will be allowed to leave the building without a parent or guardian.

Please be respectful by not picking your child up early for sports practice. The catechists spend a lot of their time and energy preparing for class; it is very distracting when students continuously leave class early.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is the parent's responsibility to obtain missed work from their child's catechist if they are going to be absent. Students who miss more than 4 classes, or consistently leave early may be required to complete a review packet over the summer. This will ensure the child is ready to move to the next grade level.

NO CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones are not allowed in the classroom. Student's who are caught using their cell phone during class, will have their phone taken away and a parent or guardian may pick it up from the PSR office.

PLEASE – NO CHEWING GUM OR SODA IN THE CLASSROOM

DISCIPLINARY POLICY

Respect for each other, others property and good manners are expected from every student. No one student has the right to make it impossible for the catechist to effectively teach the rest of the students. If any issues arise parents will be notified and options will be discussed.

I have read the above information and will follow the policies and procedures as stated.

Signature

Date

PSR STUDENTS – SPECIAL CONCERNS

2014 - 2015

Please complete this form if your child has any special needs or concerns.
Please help us help your child.

STUDENT NAME _____

SESSION _____ GRADE _____

Please check any of the following tendencies that pertain to this student.

_____ Does your child use an aid while he/she is in school?

_____ Diagnosed with ADD or ADHD. What can we do to help your child? _____

_____ Diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome. What can we do to help your child? _____

_____ Diagnosed with Autism. What can we do to help your child? _____

_____ Is not able to read.

_____ Taking medication that affects PSR time.

_____ Overly distractible for their age.

_____ Often has extremely short attention span.

_____ Excessive talking and/or boisterous running around.

_____ Not able to comprehend written materials.

_____ Able to comprehend material presented orally/tests orally, but not written.

_____ Needs lots of examples and hands-on activities.

_____ Withdrawal and refusal to participate or become involved.

_____ Any behavioral problems _____

_____ Any food allergies _____

_____ Any other medical condition or concern that we should know about. _____

This information will be kept confidential. It will only be shared with your child's catechist so they will be able to help your child grow in his/her faith.