



Dear Religious Education Parents,

Summer is almost here and I didn't want to miss this opportunity to introduce myself before you begin your travels and fun. I am Lara Pennell and have been hired to be Director of Religious Education (K5-7th) at Prince of Peace. I am very enthusiastic about having the opportunity to get to know you as we work together to share the Catholic faith with our children.

I come from a diverse background. I was born in Rochester, New York but grew up on a farm in a tiny New Mexican community. I later attended the University of Dallas in Irving, Texas and graduated with a BA in psychology and over 20 hours in Catholic philosophy and theology. I taught middle school and high school for four years before starting my own family and turning my attentions homeward. During the past twenty years I have worked with middle school, high school and college students facilitating retreats, organizing varied events, and establishing student councils and youth groups. I have taught RCIA and volunteered extensively at Prince of Peace, including helping to found the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. I am looking forward to directing religious education at Prince of Peace and getting to know you and your children.

I am here to serve you. I have a sincere love for my Catholic faith that I hope to share with your family in the upcoming year. Please feel free to contact me at the extension or email listed below. I welcome your involvement.

Finally, as with any Religious Education program, its success relies on parental involvement. Would you consider joining our Religious Education team? If you are interested in being a teacher, aide, retreat facilitator or monitor, please contact me or talk to me personally at our Open House/Ice Cream Social for Religious Education (Grades 1-8) on September, 7, 2011 in the PAC (Gym.) This is a whole family event with a little business and a little fun. Please mark your calendars and come out for our RE 2011-2012 kick-off. I hope to see you there.

Lara J. Pennell
Director of Religious Education
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Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence. 1 Peter 3:15

Prince of Peace
Religious Education Department
Enrollment Form

For Office Use

Section _____

Fees Paid/Ck# _____

Date Rec'd _____

Are you registered at Prince of Peace? Yes _____ No _____

(This is not the parish registration form. Please contact the parish for a new member packet.)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Child resides with whom? _____

Sacraments: **A copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate must accompany this form.**

Baptism _____ Reconciliation _____ First Holy Communion _____ Confirmation _____

Received/need _____ Received/need _____ Received/need _____ Received/need _____

Birth Date _____ Male _____ Female _____ School _____

Grade _____ As of Fall of 2011

Are there allergies, medical issues or other information we should know about this child?

Please list names and grades of other children in the R.E program at Prince of Peace:

Desired R.E. class time choice (circle one) 4:30 6:30 Sunday Morning (k3-k5 only)

I would like to volunteer to be a Teacher _____ Aide _____ Office/Hall Volunteer _____

Family or Guardian Name _____

E-mail Address _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Adult contacts we should have on file:

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Emergency Phone _____ Relationship* _____

*Relationship to child – mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, aunt, uncle, guardian, etc.

I have read the Religious Education Brochure: Yes

Please read page 2 and sign the "Opt In/Out" form on page 3 of this document. I have completed the "Opt In/Out" form: Yes

I give permission for my child's photo to be taken and possibly used on our web-site (Signature) _____

Protecting God's Children (Overview of the Touching Safety Program)

The job of ensuring children's safety is a challenging undertaking. The *Teaching Touching Safety* is a program in which parents, teachers, catechists, and youth ministers inform children and young people about possible harm they may face in an attempt to keep them safe.

The Touching Safety Program Lessons were created for Four Specific Age Groups:

- Grades K through 2
- Grades 3 through 5
- Grades 6 through 8
- Grades 9 through 12

Each year, the program provides a theme that builds on the basic concepts of the *Teaching Touching Safety* Guide. The material includes content and activities that reinforce the message. The lessons are organized in a four-year cycle so each child experiences a different lesson plan each time the materials are presented and receives the information from the *Teaching Touching Safety* Guide concept by concept. As a child advances to the next age group, there are a new set of age related lessons that discuss the major topics in increasingly greater detail.

The themes covered in each of the four years are:

Year 1 Lesson 1: Touching Safety Rules – Students learn simple rules about what to do and how to react when someone's touch is confusing, scary, or makes the child or young person feel uncomfortable.

Lesson 2: Safe Friends, Safe Adults, and Safe Touches – Children, young people, and their parents establish basic guidelines for working together to make certain which friends and other adults in their environment can be trusted to act safely and in the best interest of each child or young person.

Year 2 Lesson 3: Boundaries – Students learn about personal boundaries and how identifying and honoring those boundaries can give a child or young person the self assurance needed to speak up when someone tries to step over the line.

Lesson 4: Telling Someone You Trust – Children and young people learn who to tell when something makes them feel uncomfortable or confused.

Year 3 Lesson 5: Grooming – Students learn about the types of behavior that may indicate that an adult is grooming the child or young person for something more than friendship.

Lesson 6: "No secrets" – Reinforcing and building on the lessons from Year 2, this lesson deals with peer groups and other influences (including grooming by an abuser) that prevent children and young people from reporting inappropriate behavior. It also helps children and young people develop their own decision-making process.

Year 4 Lesson 7: Internet Safety – Teaches some "Do's and Don'ts" about dealing with others on the internet and the importance of protecting personal information.

Lesson 8: Creating and Following Family Rules – Children need to follow their parent's and guardian's rules to stay safe. They should participate in creating family rules for everyone to follow that protect the family from harm.

For more information on the *Touching Safety* program, visit the VIRTUS *Online*[™] website at www.virtus.org

TO: Parents
FROM: Prince of Peace Office of Religious Education
SUBJECT: Opt In/Out of the *Touching Safety* program

The ***VIRTUS Teaching Touching Safety Program for Children*** program is a program geared towards children in an attempt to protect them from sexual abuse. As a parent, you have the right to choose whether your student participates. We encourage you to read the attached "program overview" so you'll be aware of the nature of the *Touching Safety* program. If you have questions about the program or the lesson, please contact Lara Pennell in the Office of Religious Education at 864-331-3919. Please return this form with your registration forms in the Sunday offertory or to the Office of Religious Education by Monday, June 13, 2011. For more information on the *Touching Safety* program, visit the *VIRTUS Online*[™] website at www.virtus.org.

The staff volunteers of the Prince of Peace Office of Religious Education will present a sexual abuse program, the *Touching Safety* program, and will notify you when those dates are scheduled.

Permission/Opt-out form for use with the *Touching Safety* program:

The staff/volunteers of Prince of Peace Religious Education:

- do not** have my permission to present the *Touching Safety* program to my child
- do** have my permission to present the *Touching Safety* program to my child

Child(ren)'s Names: _____

Grade: _____

Parent's name (printed): _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____