

May 11, 2010

Greetings to you in the Lord!

St. Gregory Catholic School is ours. We are proud of it. We know that our children are a most precious gift from God the Father. As Church, we strive with families, friends and societal institutions, to secure a healthy environment designed to nurture our young people and to assist developing their minds to their fullest potential to become people of faith and productive citizens.

All employees and all volunteers who have substantial contact with children and/or youth are required to submit to background checks prior to their engagement with children or teens. All employees of the Archdiocese (including clergy, and consecrated religious men and women) as well as all volunteers, whose roles put them in substantial contact with children and/or youth, are required to attend a child safety awareness program called Virtus.

I have come across some challenges that the school parents had in the past few months about volunteering with the children in several events. We try to provide for our children and youth a safe and healthy environment. I have asked Mrs. Barbara Hawkins, the Principal, and Maria Seematter, the Virtus Coordinator and School Secretary to encourage all the parents and volunteers to go through the Virtus Training sessions so that they can get involved with the children and meet the Archdiocesan policy as well. If any parent has not yet gone through the training, I highly encourage every parent and volunteer to attend the Virtus training session offered in our Archdiocese.

I understand some parents were not able to attend the Virtus training session because of their work or family situation. I ask those parents and volunteers to inform the Principal's office in advance about their involvement and make sure that there is a Virtus trained person with them at all times if they are going to accompany the children on field trips or school events. I hope this clarifies our Safe Environment Program and encourages all parents to become more involved in parish/school activities.

I wish you a blessed Summer. May the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary help you to love Christ and to be the true disciples of Jesus Christ in our communities! Thanks again for all that you have done for St. Gregory Church and School. Please continue to be part of our School with your prayers, love and support. Assuring you of my prayers and may God bless you!

Yours Lovingly in Christ

**Fr. Anthony Raju Putti,
Pastor**

For further information go to : <http://www.virtus.org>