

February 2017

Happy Valentine's Day Everyone!

Sunday night is the big night! While most people have Super Bowl parties, our house has a **Super Sensitive Party!** I think this will be our 7th Annual Super Sensitive Party! Are you feeling a little perplexed or feeling like I have a major typo? None of the above, just bear with me for a minute.

Our oldest son JD and I like sports and although college football is our favorite, we enjoy the Super Bowl. We don't want to miss out. He doesn't live at home, but he will attend the party for his mother's sake.

My husband Jon and our youngest son Sam would live a happier life if they never heard the word football again. But Sam for the sake of the "talk" at school, he will watch the game with us.

Jon, not so much. It's quite an ordeal to make him feel a part of our party. One of us, most of the time it's our daughter Millie, who only attends the party for the commercials, will make a comfortable spot on the couch for her Dad. This is where he can stretch out with a laptop, headphones, and one of his Jane Austin movies. (Hence the word sensitive).

So now, I can only imagine the confusion you must be feeling. But for us, it's quite normal. It doesn't mean we don't make jokes or poke fun at each other but it has become a family tradition like no other. We have all the good eats and party food, do our own thing but yet we are still together. We are different, that's how we were made. God did not make us on a mass production line. He took great care in making us who we were meant to be. We are his Masterpiece.

There are days we just plain and simple don't feel like a Masterpiece and that's OK, but the Lord still wants us to know how much HE loves us and that His love for us is the one constant thing we can count on, no matter how different we are.

Happy Super Bowl or Super Sensitive Day and give thanks for all the Masterpieces you will spend your time with.

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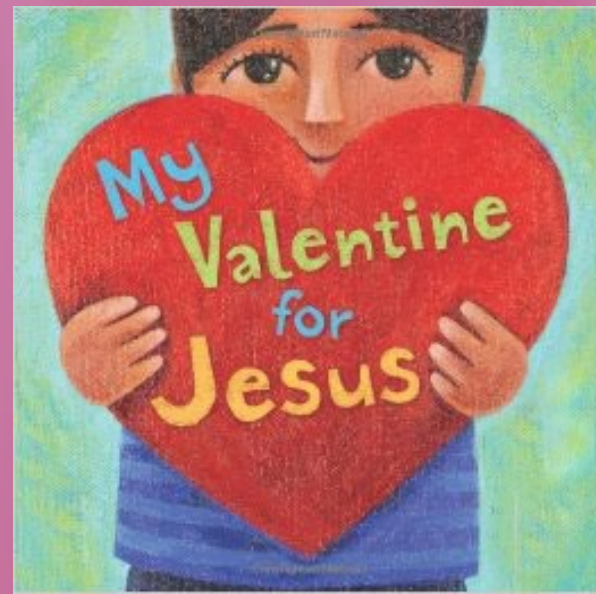


517-342-2551

VIRTUS Local Administrators

Look for the confidential survey in your email next week. I encourage you to complete it. This is going to help us know how to better serve your needs; not by parish or school but as a whole Diocese.

Would you be so kind as to complete it so we can put our best efforts in to helping you, your parish and your school.



Safe Environment Newsletter



If you have a group (sports team, scout group, youth club) that uses your facility does the leader or all the adults need Protecting God's Children training? If the group is sponsored by the parish then yes, training must be complete. If the group is just using the facility and it's **not** a parish sponsored event we do not require the PGC training. With that in mind, please always encourage the leader of the group to have more than one adult present at all times.



Another reminder from MSP. Make sure you keep the Criminal Background Release form on file when processing an ICHAT. It is likely you will be asked to prove through an audit that individuals are in fact completing the consent form and giving you permission to process a background check



The VIRTUS website provides a lot of good materials that you may find useful for leaders, teachers and volunteers. We are welcomed to use these and even print or post for educational purposes. In fact, the folks at VIRTUS encourage it. All they ask is that we make sure the material includes their logo or some indication that it's VIRTUS material.



For parents who may want to view the Safe Sheep In Our Flock Program before students participates, the contents can now be found at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5C8mmn2209Zh2DiSBXvQ>

Please revise any information that has www.safesheep.com. This link is no longer available.

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, affirms

our deep commitment to creating a safe environment within our parishes and schools for children and youth. During 2017, a brief summary each month of what the seventeen Articles in the Charter means for us as a community, will be highlighted in our newsletter.

To Promote - Article 2

Dioceses are to have policies and procedures in place to respond promptly to any allegation when there is reason to believe that sexual abuse of a minor has occurred. There is to be a competent person who will help to coordinate immediate pastoral care of the person who reports having been sexually abused by clergy or other church personnel. Our victim Assistance Coordinator is Cheryl Williams-Hecksel.

The Diocese is to have a Review Board who offers advice to the Bishop in his assessment of the allegations and determination of suitability for ministry.

For a copy of the Charter go to http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/child_and_youth_protection under Resources and Information section.