



The Diocese of Kalamazoo continues to update and refine the Maria Goretti Project. The goal of the Maria Goretti Project is to establish open communication between parishes, schools, parents, and youth of the diocese to create a safer environment to know, love, and serve God. For the 2023-2024 school year parishes and parents of parish religious education and youth ministry programs will enter the next phase of the project. Parishes will provide some time for parents to hear and discuss why they are being asked to be involved in safe environment education, and to learn some valuable information that can assist in keeping their children safe. Each parent will then be provided with a paper handout for their children's specific grade levels. This sheet will address four topics: Communication, Body Awareness, Technology, and Healthy Boundaries. Over the next year more material will be added to the diocesan Protect website ([protect.diokzoo.org/gorettiproject](http://protect.diokzoo.org/gorettiproject)) to provide further discussion points and information to parents who want to have deeper conversations. There will be two specific questions for each section to start conversations between parents and their children. We hope that parents will see the value of this program, but they can always contact the diocese for any additional questions or concerns. After receiving the information parents will have the opportunity to opt out of educating their children using these discussion guides. These forms will then be kept at the parish grounds and reported on the Annual Audit.

**Please note:** Parents and Guardians may "opt out" youth from formal safety lessons. *Please complete, detach and submit the form below with the selection of your choice, so the parish can provide correct data to the Diocesan Safe Environment Office.*

---

**TO OPT-OUT THE CHILD FROM THE SAFETY LESSON, RETURN THIS PORTION TO:**

***St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church***

I, (*printed name of parent or guardian*) \_\_\_\_\_, have reviewed the actual safety lessons and **DO** plan to Goretti Project Lesson to my child (*printed name of child*) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

I, (*printed name of parent or guardian*) \_\_\_\_\_, have reviewed the actual safety lessons and **DO NOT** plan to utilize the Goretti Project Lesson with my child (*printed name of child*) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_