



*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."* Heb. 13:8

## Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Center for Ministry

January 10, 2006

Dear Mr. Willerscheidt

Thank you for your presentation to me, as Director of the Protection of Children and Youth Initiative, on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and the Boy Scouts of America do indeed share a common goal to protect our children from sexual abuse.

The Boy Scouts of America has created a training program in sexual abuse prevention called "Youth Protection".

The Archdiocese has selected the VIRTUS sexual abuse prevention program. The Archdiocese has made attending the VIRTUS program a requirement for all adults interacting with youth in parishes, schools, or other institutions within the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Your presentation highlighted the similarities between the Boy Scout "Youth Protection" training and the VIRTUS program.

You proposed that adult Boy Scout leaders who are current in their "Youth Protection" training would also be considered as having experienced a safety awareness program, similar to that sponsored by the Archdiocese. While it is not the VIRTUS program, it is an equivalent and would be viewed as acceptable training at this time. While we do not foresee that changing in the future, we need to remain open to that possibility.

After careful review, the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis has determined that the Boy Scout "Youth Protection" training meets or exceeds the requirements set forth in the VIRTUS program. Therefore, the Boy Scout "Youth Protection" trained scout leaders within the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis who are current in "Youth Protection" training do not need to also complete the VIRTUS program.

Boy Scout leaders who wish to use their BSA "Youth Protection" training in lieu of the VIRTUS program may present their BSA "Youth Protection" card as proof of certification when requested. If the parish has any further questions, they may contact the Center for Ministry of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis (651-290-1616) for further clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Fran Donnelly, B.V.M.".

Sister Fran Donnelly, B.V.M.  
Director, Protection of Children and Youth Initiative