ST. GERARD
CATHOLIC + SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

August 20, 2026

From the Principal's Desk:

Growing to Better Serve St. Gerard

Dear Golden Eagle Families,

I am excited to be back on campus with all of our amazing students and staff! I am re-energized and looking forward to working together to be the best Catholic school in the region! Some of this includes introducing you to an amazing American saint and sharing some of my professional and personal faith journey.

Getting to know St. Frances Xavier Cabrini: She was the first American citizen to be canonized, devoted her life to serving others with courage, faith, and trust in God. Inspired by her example, I am honored to have been selected for the **Cabrini Fellowship** through the University of Notre Dame.

This summer, I spent a week on Notre Dame's campus with 28 Catholic school principals from across the United States. It was an incredible experience filled with prayer, reflection, collaboration, and outstanding professional learning. While we represented schools from many different communities, we all shared one mission: ***helping our students grow in faith, knowledge, and love of Christ.***

The Cabrini Fellowship is a two-year leadership journey, and I am excited to continue learning alongside this talented group of principals. Throughout the fellowship, I will have opportunities to deepen my leadership, strengthen my faith, and bring new ideas and best practices back to St. Gerard.

As I participated in the week's sessions, I found myself thinking often about our students, families, faculty, and parish. Every conversation led me back to one simple question: **How can this help St. Gerard become even stronger?** I am grateful for this opportunity to grow so that I can better serve our wonderful school community.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. I may be reaching out to you personally or via brief surveys to help move us forward. It is truly a blessing to serve as your principal, and I look forward to sharing what I learn throughout this journey.

Blessings,
Natalie Schoonover
Principal

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ST. GERARD
CATHOLIC + SCHOOL

8/26

First All School Mass

Family and Friends are invited to join us for the first Mass of the 2026-2027 school year. Mass begins at 8:30 a.m. in the the Church

8/27

Protos House Dress Down Day

Students who are in the Protos House may be out of uniform on August 27th. Please consult the Student Handbook for out of uniform guidelines.

8/31

House Spirit Week

Stay tuned on Class Dojo and here in the upcoming newsletters for a schedule of events for House Spirit Week that begins on August 31st.

9/18

Fall Picture Day

Lifetouch will be at school to photograph all students for school pictures. Stay tuned for ordering information.

Reminders & Announcements

THANK YOU FOR STAYING CONNECTED.

FROM THE CAFETERIA

IT IS THE POLICY OF ST. GERARD CATHOLIC SCHOOL THAT FAST FOOD ITEMS OF ANY KIND SUCH AS MCDONALDS, TACO BELL ETC. ARE NOT PERMITTED AT BREAKFAST AND LUNCH. STUDENTS ARE ALSO NOT PERMITTED TO BRING IN ICED COFFEE, HOT CHOCOLATE, POP, RED BULL, OR MONSTER DRINKS. IF STUDENTS BRING IN THESE ITEMS, THEY WILL BE ASKED TO THROW THEM AWAY.

REMEMBER THIS YEAR BREAKFAST AND LUNCH ARE FREE FOR ALL STUDENTS.

STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 4TH GRADE WHO ARE PACKING THEIR LUNCH NEED TO BRING A PACKED LUNCH OF ALREADY PREPARED FOODS. THESE STUDENTS DO NOT HAVE ACCESSIBILITY TO A MICROWAVE TO HEAT UP FOOD. IF A STUDENT BRINGS IN ITEMS THAT NEED HEATED, THEY WILL BE SENT BACK HOME AND WILL BE GIVEN A HOT LUNCH FROM THE CAFETERIA.

STUDENT BIRTHDAY TREATS

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CELEBRATE YOUR CHILD'S BIRTHDAY, PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR CHID'S TEACHER PRIOR TO SENDING IN BIRTHDAY TREATS.

BIRTHDAY TREATS SHOULD BE INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED ITEMS SUCH AS COOKIES, LITTLE DEBBIES, ETC. CUPCAKES AND POP WILL NOT BE PERMITTED AS AN ACCEPTABLE TREAT AND WILL BE RETURNED HOME WITH YOUR STUDENT.

BIRTHDAY TREATS ARE NOT PERMITED IN THE CAFETERIA.

LUNCH MENUS

THE MONTHLY LUNCH MENU IS AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE BY VISITING WWW.SGSLIMA.ORG. THE MENU WILL ALSO BE POSTED ON CLASS DOJO.

ABSENCE REPORTING

IF YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE AT SCHOOL, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE AT (419) 222-0431 TO REPORT THEIR ABSENCE.

ANY STUDENT WHO IS NOT CALLED INTO THE SCHOOL BY 9 A.M., PARENTS WILL BE CONTACTED BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS.

NO PARKING ZONES

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM PARKING IN THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL ON MAIN STREET IN THE MORNINGS BEFORE 7:47 A.M. AND IN THE AFTERNOONS BETWEEN 2:35 AND 3:10 P.M.

THIS AREA IS RESERVED FOR THE BUSES AT THESE TIMES.

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22ND AT 5 PM: LIAM FAY, EMILY FAY, BRI FAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23RD AT 8:30 AM: ANGELICA COLLAR, JACKSON MILLER, JAYDEN BAKIES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23RD AT 11 AM: CARTER HELMIG, ALI COOK, JAYLON PATTON

SCHOOL DELAYS/CANCELLATIONS

SCHOOL DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS WILL BE POSTED ON THE CLASS DOJO APP AND ON NBC HOMETOWN STATIONS. WHEN LOOKING ON HOMETOWN STATIONS, PLEASE LOOK FOR LIMA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

EDCHOICE SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTANCE FORMS

ALL STUDENTS WHOSE EDCHOICE SCHOLARSHIP HAS BEEN AWARDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED AN ACCEPTANCE FORM AT YOUR HOME ADDRESS. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET SIGNED AND RETURNED IT TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

STUDENT APPOINTMENTS

IF YOUR STUDENT HAS AN APPOINTMENT DURING THE SCHOOL DAY, PLEASE SEND IN A NOTE OR CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE SO THAT WE CAN ENSURE THAT YOUR STUDENT IS READY AT THE TIME OF YOUR ARRIVAL TO THE SCHOOL FOR PICKUP. PARENTS WILL NEED TO COME INTO THE SCHOOL OFFICE TO SIGN YOUR CHILD(REN) OUT.

Reminders & Announcements

THANK YOU FOR STAYING CONNECTED.

FROM THE FAMILY ACTION TEAM

HELLO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS,

HERE'S A FUNDRAISER THAT WILL HELP US RAISE IMPORTANT FUNDS WHILE MAKING YOUR PORCH LOOK BEAUTIFUL THIS FALL!

REGISTRATION FOR ST. GERARD'S FALL MUMKIN FALL FLOWER SALE IS NOW OPEN.

REGISTER YOUR STORE TODAY FOR IT TO GO LIVE. EVEN THOUGH OUR SALE HASN'T OFFICIAL OPENED YET, YOU CAN STILL TAKE ORDERS! SHARE YOUR STORE TODAY WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS SO THEY CAN SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT AND YOUR ORGANIZATION WHILE GETTING SOME GREENHOUSE-GROWN SPECTACULAR MUMS. EARLY ORDERS ARE FULLY CREDITED TOWARD PRIZE ELIGIBILITY FOR YOUR STUDENT(S).

REGISTER NOW:
HTTPS://STGERARD.SOWZER.COM/PARENT-SIGNUP?STEP=WELCOME

WHY REGISTER TODAY
- YOUR STORE IS ACTIVE RIGHT AWAY. EVERY ORDER PLACED THROUGH YOUR LINK COUNTS TOWARD PRIZES.
- INVITE OTHERS TO SHOP THIS SEASON'S FAVORITES, INCLUDING MUMKINS, HAIRCLUB, HARVEST BUSHEL BASKETS, CANDLES, AND MORE.
- DON'T MISS OUR PREMIUM SELECTIONS LIKE FRANKENMUM, CATMUM, BOOMUM, AND SCARECROW MUMS, PERFECT FOR FALL DECORATING.
- POPULAR ITEMS GO QUICKLY IN FALL. REGISTERING NOW LETS YOU AND YOUR SUPPORTERS SHOP EARLIER FOR THE BEST SELECTION.
- THESE MUMS ARE OF EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY. THEY ARE PROFESSIONALLY GROWN WITHOUT HARMFUL CHEMICALS BY HORTICULTURISTS WITH DECADES OF EXPERIENCE.

BLESSING OF THE STUDENTS

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE WEEKEND MASSES ON AUGUST 29TH AND 30TH FOR A SPECIAL BLESSING FOR ALL STUDENTS.

DISMISSAL

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS HOW THEY ARE GETTING HOME EACH DAY. IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE RIDING HOME WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOU, PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL SO THAT WE ARE AWARE THAT STUDENTS ARE LEAVING WITH THE APPROPRIATE PERSON.

ALSO ANY CHANGES TO DISMISSAL PLAN, PLEASE COMMUNICATE TO THE OFFICE BY 2:30 P.M. (1:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAYS) SO THAT WE CAN ENSURE WE HAVE THE KIDS IN THE RIGHT SPOTS FOR DISMISSAL.

2026-2027 SCHOOL FEES

FEES FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR ARE NOW DUE. PLEASE LOG ONTO YOUR FINAL FORMS ACCOUNT TO VIEW YOUR BALANCE AND PAY BY CREDIT CARD. IF YOU PREFER TO PAY BY CASH OR CHECK, PLEASE STOP INTO THE SCHOOL OFFICE OR SEND INTO SCHOOL WITH YORU CHILD. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO PAY THE FULL BALANCE, PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE TO SET-UP A MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT ATTENTION TO THIS.

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR, THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS AND/OR FAMILY MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER BY DRIVING TO/FROM FIELD TRIPS, WORKING INT HE CLASSROOMS FOR HOLIDAY PARTIES, ETC. VOLUNTEERS IN THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS & CHURCHES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND REMAIN CURRENT WITH A BACKGROUND CHECK AND TAKE A PROTECTING THE YOUTH COURSE ONLINE.

THE DIRECTIONS TO COMPLETE THESE ITEMS ARE ATTACHED (VIRTUS ONLINE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS). ONCE COMPLETED IF YOU WOULD TURN IN YOUR CERTIFICATE FOR THE PROTECTING THE YOUTH COURSE TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE, ST. GERARD WILL REIMBURSE THE $25 FEE TO YOUR FOR THE BACKGROUND CHECK.

THE BACKGROUND CHECK DOES TAKE A FEW DAYS TO PROCESS, SO PLEASE DO THESE ITEMS TO ENSURE YOU WILL BE ELIGBLE TO VOLUNTEER FOR UPCOMING EVENTS.

SHOPPING Party

SHOE CARNIVAL

SAVE AN ADDITIONAL

20% OFF

INCLUDING SALE PRICES

Valid in-store only. Present coupon at checkout. One coupon per customer. Cannot be combined with BOGO Free, Flash Sales, additional discounts or coupons, or used on prior purchases, refunds, or exchanges. Excludes Gift Cards, Flash Sales, select ASICS, Dr. Martens, Steve Madden, Minnetonka, and Reef. Excluded brands: Nike, Brooks, Crocs, Converse, Bogg Bag, Under Armour, Vans, New Balance, Sperry, Chaco, Birkenstock, Timberland, Timberland Pro, KEEN Utility, Justin Boots, OOFOS, Hey Dude, Koolaburra by UGG, and SAS. Other exclusions may apply. Not valid in Puerto Rico. Offers are subject to change without notice.

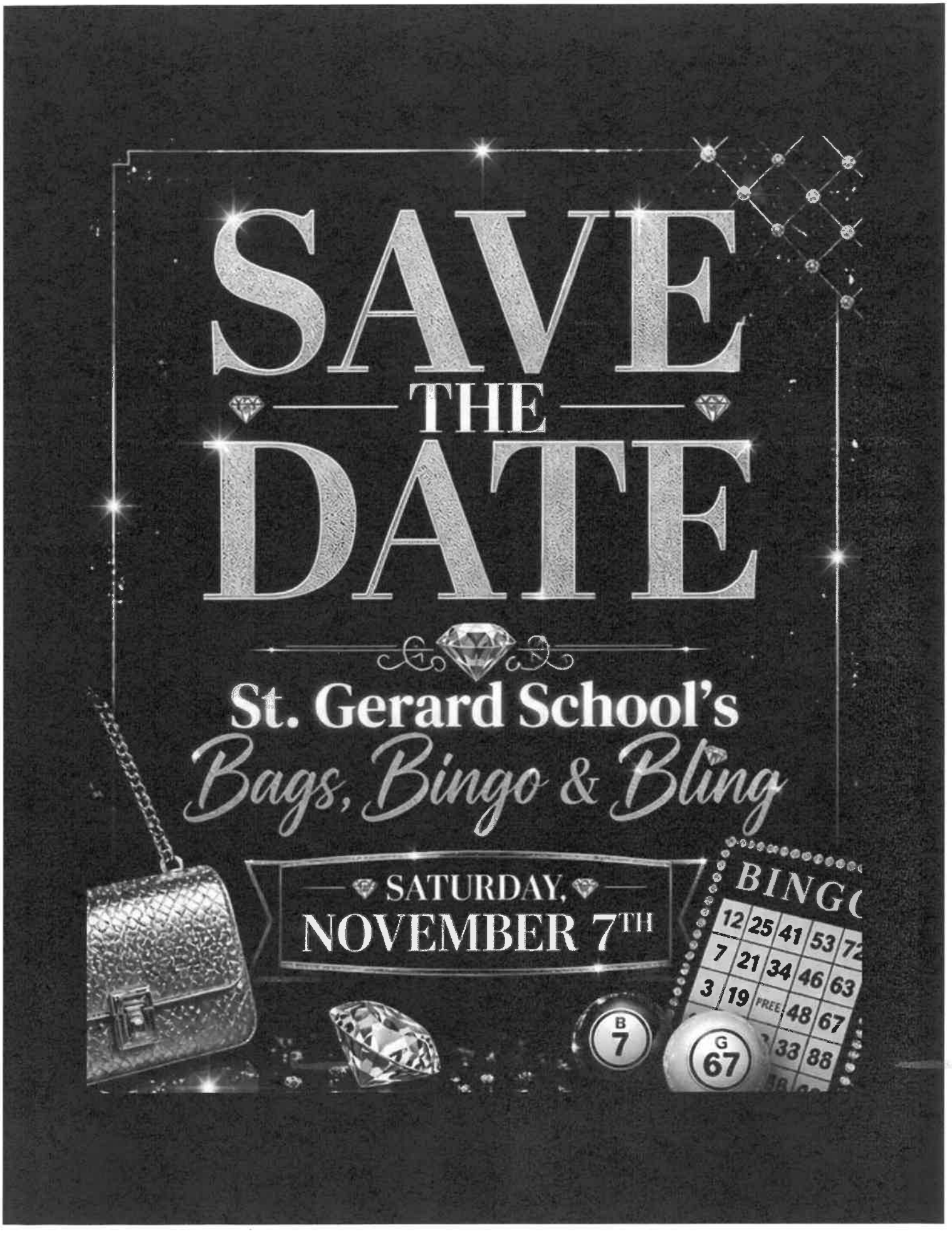
EXCLUSIVELY FOR

Catholic Schools

Students, Teachers, Staff & Family

August 22nd - 24th 2025

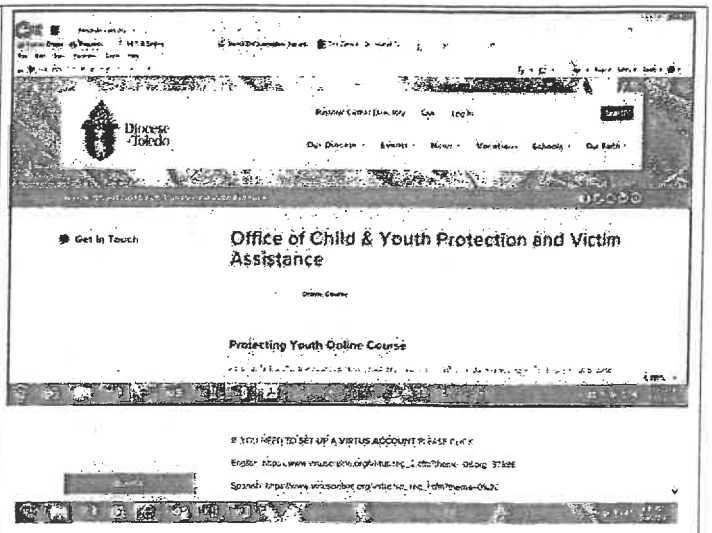
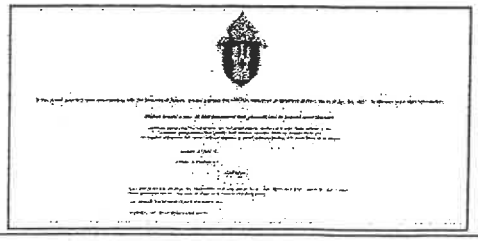
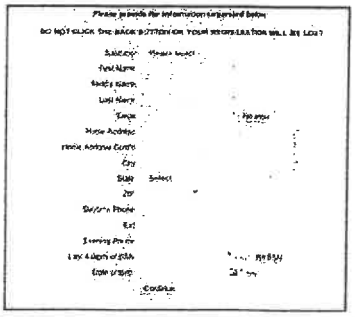
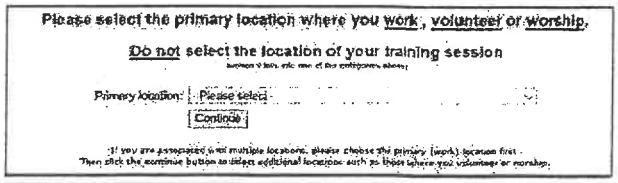
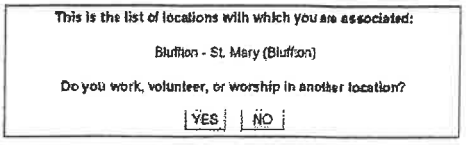
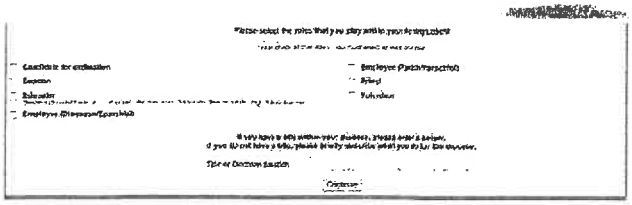
Lima Center • 2720 Elida Road • Lima, OH
(419) 225-8797


SAVE
THE
DATE
St. Gerard School's
Bags, Bingo & Bling
SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 7TH
BINGO
12 25 41 53
7 21 34 46 63
3 19 FREE 48 67
33 88
B 7
G 67

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.

VIRTUS Online™

Registration Instructions
Diocese of Toledo

Before completing **Protecting God's Children** training online, all participants **must** first register with **VIRTUS Online.** **Go** to the Office of Child & Youth Protection & Victim Assistance's Online Course page of the Diocesan website http://toledodiocese.org/page/protecting-youth-victim-assistance#_online_course. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the VIRTUS link English: https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_2.cfm?theme=0&org=37396 Spanish: https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/sp_reg_1.cfm?theme=0%20 to access the VIRTUS Registration page.	
Create a user ID and a password you can easily remember. This is necessary for all participants. This establishes your account with the VIRTUS program. If your preferred user ID is already taken, please choose another ID. We suggest the use of email addresses as user names. Click **Continue** to proceed.	
Provide all the information requested on the screen. Several fields are required, such as: First, Middle & Last Name, Email address, Home Address, City, State, Zip, Phone Number, Last Four Digits of SSN, and Date of Birth. (Note: Do not click the back button or your registration will be lost.) Click **Continue** to proceed. ***If you do not have an email address, consider obtaining a free email account at mail.yahoo.com, or any other free service. This is necessary for your VIRTUS Coordinator to communicate with you. If you cannot obtain an email address, enter: noaddress@virtus.org.***	
Select the PRIMARY location where you work or volunteer by clicking the downward arrow and highlighting the location. Click **Continue** to proceed. *Note: If you serve at multiple diocesan locations, you will be prompted to select those additional locations in future screen(s).)*	
Your selected location(s) are displayed on the screen. Select **YES**, if you need to add secondary/additional locations. (Follow instructions in previous step to select additional locations.) Otherwise, if your list of locations is complete, select **NO**.	
Select the role(s) that you serve within your parish. Please check **all** roles that apply. Additionally, **enter** your title in the box provided that best describes your role within the Diocese -- ie. Catechist, Coach, DRE, Eucharistic Minister, Math Teacher, Room Mom, Seminarian, etc. Click **Continue** to proceed.	

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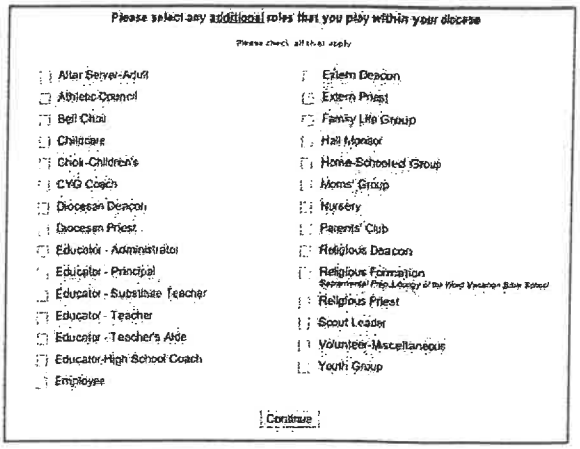
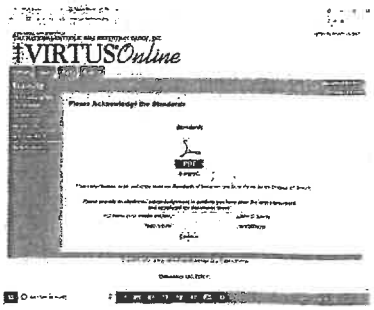
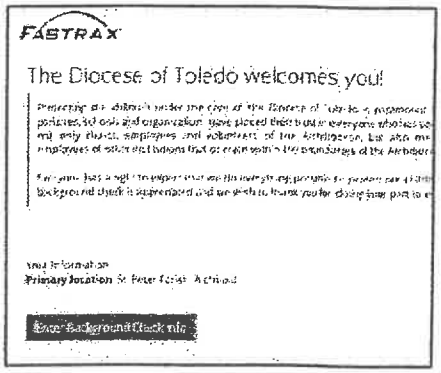
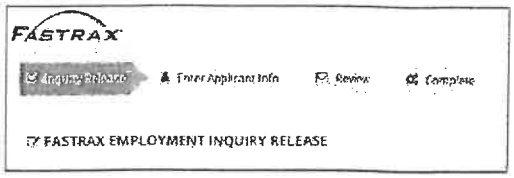
VIRTUS Online™

Registration Instructions
Diocese of Toledo

Please select any additional roles that you are associated with in the diocese, parish or school. Click **Continue** to proceed.	
All registrants must please read the **Diocese of Toledo, *Standards* and *Guidelines*.** Download the ***Standards*** and ***Guidelines*** by clicking the **PDF** icon. Once the download and reading is complete, close the screen and return to the VIRTUS registration screen. To proceed, please provide your **electronic signature** and **today's date**. Click **Continue** to proceed.	
You are now within the secure website of ***FASTRAX***®. Please click on **Enter Background Check** Info to proceed.	
Please complete the steps within the background check process, which includes reviewing the inquiry release, entering applicant information, a final review, and the submission of the background check. Once you close the *Fastrax* screen (click on the "x" in the corner), you will automatically be taken to the online training course.	

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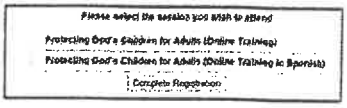
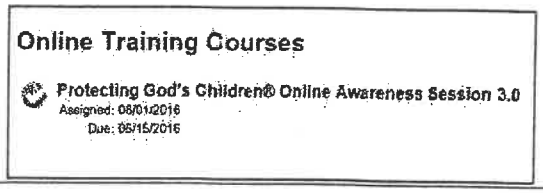
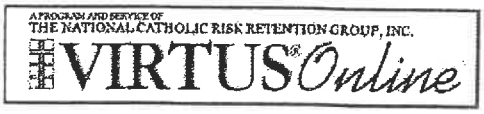
VIRTUS Online™

Registration Instructions
Diocese of Toledo

Click inside the circle to select the **Online Training** you wish to complete.	
Click on the **green circle** to begin the **Online Training** Upon completion, the last screen will allow you to **print** a certificate, and you will always have the ability to log back into your account and access the certificate.	
If you have additional questions about VIRTUS Online training, please contact the VIRTUS Help Desk at 1-888-847-8870. **Thank you!**	

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