

YOUTH AND YOUNG

ADULT MINISTRIES

DIOCESE OF
TRENTON

January 3, 2005

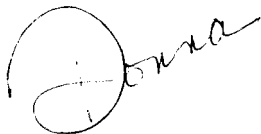
Dear Athletic Director,

Happy New Year, I trust your holidays were a time of much peace, joy, food, fun and fellowship. As we begin this New Year we have much to be grateful for and much more to look forward to. We also face many challenges which will require we get creative in our approach to many of the issues facing us in this coming year. I am currently reading a book entitled "Coaching Catholic: Gospel Values in Youth Sports", I am working with the publisher to see if I can negotiate a bulk purchase deal as I firmly believe I would like to get a copy of this book in each of our coach's hands. WOW it is an awesome book and each page calls us to re-examine why it is we are doing what we do.

Enclosed in this mailing is a copy of the Diocesan Code of Conduct that is now required of each volunteer to sign at the beginning of each new season. The entire Code of Conduct recently adopted by the Diocese can be found on our web page www.dioceseoftrenton.org. I have also enclosed a package that the New Jersey Nets put together for us. Please see that each of your basketball coaches get copies of this offering—might be a good way to build community?

Please begin thinking and coordinating with your Virtus Facilitator for sessions to be scheduled for your spring sports coaches, also please contact this office if you have a number of coaches that need to complete the Rutgers training and I will begin scheduling those in late January.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donna", written over a circular stamp or mark.

701 Lawrenceville Road; P.O. Box 5147 Trenton, NJ 08638-0147
Phone: 609-406-7410; Fax: 609-406-7419; Email: youth@dioceseoftrenton.org;
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Diocese of Trenton Volunteer Code of Conduct

Our children are the most important gifts God has entrusted to us. As a volunteer, I promise to strictly follow the rules and guidelines in this Volunteer's Code of Conduct as a condition of my providing services to the children and youth of our [parish, school, facility, diocese, etc.].

As a volunteer, I will:

- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration and conduct myself and live a lifestyle which is in conformance with Catholic teachings.
- Avoid situations where I am alone with children and/or youth at Church activities.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition, or comparison when working with children and/or youth.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from children and/or youth or their parents without prior written approval from the pastor or administrator.
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to children and/or youth without prior written approval from the parents or guardian and the pastor or administrator.
- Report suspected abuse to the pastor, administrator, or appropriate supervisor and [the local Child Protection Services agency]. I understand that failure to report suspected abuse to civil authorities is, according to the law, a misdemeanor.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children and/or youth.

As a volunteer, I will not:

- Smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of children and/or youth.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol at any time while volunteering.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time.
- Pose any health risk to children and/or youth (i.e., no fevers or other contagious situations).
- Strike, spank, shake, or slap children and/or youth.
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade children and/or youth.
- Touch a child and/or youth in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates children and/or youth.
- Use profanity in the presence of children and/or youth.

I understand that as a volunteer working with children and/or youth, I am subject to a thorough background check including criminal history. I understand that any action inconsistent with this Code of Conduct or failure to take action mandated by this Code of Conduct may result in my removal as a volunteer with children and/or youth.

Volunteer's Printed Name

Volunteer's Signature

Date

*This should be permanently maintained on file at the parish, school or Diocesan facility where the individual volunteers.
