

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- The Church of St. Mary at Clinton Heights along with the Diocese of Albany is committed to compliance with the U.S. Bishops' Charter for The Protection of Children and Young People. Article 12 of the Charter mandates that, "each diocese establish and maintain a Safe Environment Program for children and youth." In light of this, the *VIRTUS Safe Environment Program for Children* was adopted by the Diocese of Albany in September, 2003.
- In compliance with the Charter, the Church of St. Mary at Clinton Heights Faith Formation Programs present the *Safe Environment* program, a sexual abuse prevention program, for all of our participants (Elementary – High School) during one session on an annual basis. Each child will attend an age-appropriate session lasting 10-15 minutes. This program is provided to us by the Diocese of Albany and is a part of our ongoing effort to help create and maintain a safe environment for all children.
- In addition all of our volunteers must attend a Virtus training session, and complete and application, background check, and sign a code of conduct. All forms and additional information can be viewed by contacting the PAEC.