

## Catholic Diocese of Richmond

### Peacemaker Program - A Spiritual Solution to Prevent Bullying

In response to the growing need for schools to create an environment that fosters respect for others, the Office of Catholic Education presents a spiritual solution to prevent bullying. As educators we recognize the need to teach children the values and qualities of acting as “peacemakers”. A child’s value system will likely be influence through his/her family, community, peers and school. In some cases the school is the one place where children feel safe for it provides a caring atmosphere with structure, consistency and definite rules for living.

Stressing the rule of being a “peacemaker” and not a “peacetaker” is the cornerstone for the program. Children of all ages need skills to manage conflicts. Conflicts have to be seen as problems to solve and not occasions to associate blame with someone or something else. Taking responsibility for one’s actions and learning to control impulsivity hinge tightly on the success of teaching peacemaking strategies. As the students begin to realize the ultimate empowerment of peacemaking, transforming negative reactions to positive responses becomes a turnaround for some students.

In the following pages we offer some classroom activities and management ideas which will help to create a peaceable school environment. As educators we see the true necessity in preparing students to become our future leaders who can think and act respectfully, reverently and responsibly.

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