

## BULLETIN NOTICES 2

Here are some additional notices that you can place in your bulletins and newsletters to help raise awareness about the safety of our children. Don't forget to encourage the parents to attend our Internet Safety Workshops in April for some great tips on Safety on the internet and on the cell phone, too! They can visit our Diocesan website [www.diocesepb.org](http://www.diocesepb.org) and click on the surfer in the left margin for the dates, times and locations of the workshops.

***"Let's all work together to keep our children safe."***

### TIP # 11

#### DID YOU KNOW?

##### **Internet Safety for Kids**

The Internet has become the new schoolyard for child molesters seeking girls or boys to victimize. Internet "chat rooms" provide a teenager with an opportunity to engage in a "live" conversation with friends from school or church, or with other teenagers from around the world. A chat room is similar to an old-style telephone party line, except that the teens are typing. Law enforcement has found that child molesters use chat rooms to gain easy and safe access to teens and now pre-teens. Because of the seemingly caring and seductive talent of child molesters, teenagers should be warned that when they are in a chat room, they should never provide anyone with private information, personal information, and especially their specific physical location.

Source: Bob Farley, "Exposing the Dangers of Chat Rooms" featured March 14, 2005, at [www.virtusonline.org/virtus](http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus)

### TIP# 12

#### DID YOU KNOW?

##### **Cyber Tipline Fights Internet Crimes Against Children**

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other government agencies all work together to fight Internet crimes against children. They've established a "**Cyber Tipline**," a reporting mechanism for cases of child sexual exploitation including child pornography, online enticement of children for sex acts, molestation of children outside the family, sex tourism of children, child victims of prostitution, and unsolicited obscene material sent to a child. Reports may be made - 24 hours per day, seven days per week – online at [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com) or by calling (800) 843-5678.

**TIP # 13****DID YOU KNOW?****IOW, Knowing Internet Lingo Can Help Parents Safeguard Kids**

Online chat rooms, instant messaging systems, and even cell phones equipped to send text messages are environments rich in abbreviations, acronym, and other shorthand that help increase the speed of communication. Parents need to become aware of some of the common lingo that is used in these environments. Some of these terms may be found to be vulgar, degrading, or otherwise offensive. However, parents and educators need to have a level of understanding of the dangers that face our children.

Source: Bob Farley, "Exposing the Dangers of Chat Rooms," featured March 14, 2005, at [www.virtusonline.org/virtus](http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus)

**TIP # 14****DID YOU KNOW?****Internet Spammers Target Kids, Too**

Does your child know what to do when he or she gets an e-mail from an unknown person? If you are allowing your children to communicate with others online, be aware that they will be exposed to spam. The easiest way to avoid spam is to make sure that your children do not give out their personal information or e-mail address to anyone they do not know. Adjust the security settings on their e-mail account to filter or block unwanted messages. Encourage your children to delete any message they get from any one they don't know. Even when your children get e-mail or instant messages from people they know, make sure that they scan everything they are downloading for viruses first. You can do this by making sure that you have your antivirus software up to date.

Source: [www.netSMARTZ.org/safety/safetytips.htm](http://www.netSMARTZ.org/safety/safetytips.htm)

**ALL OF THE TOPICS MENTIONED IN THE TIPS ABOVE WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE WORKSHOPS IN APRIL.**