

THE SHEPHERD

"Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding."

~Jeremiah 3:15



Diocese of Salina Safe Environment Newsletter

January 2016

First Edition!

Welcome to the first edition of *The Shepherd*-The Office of Safety and Security's quarterly newsletter. You will receive a copy of this newsletter via email and will find it on the Diocese of Salina's Safe Environment webpage. This newsletter will be an aid in promoting what the Diocese is doing as we continue to create

better Safe-Environment programs and reach out to victims of abuse for healing. Even the best Safe-Environment programs cannot operate alone, they must be connected to the environment it strives to make safe.



~We are our children's shepherds.

Our efforts to right the wrong of child sexual abuse and to protect the life and dignity of our children are not just about safety, but about our faith.

As a Community of Faith

We believe that the prevention of child sexual abuse begins with each person. Increased awareness and willingness to take action are steps each of us must take to suppress child abuse in our society.

Let *The Shepherd* be a way for you to connect and build relationships with leaders in your parish, school, community and Diocese as we work together in creating for children the kind of environment Christ teaches about in his gospel.



Abuse of Minors Pastoral Response Hotline:

(Editorial assistance by)

785.825.0865

For the safety and the healing of children, the Diocese of Salina provides an Abuse of Minors Pastoral Response Hotline. Calls to this number will be answered by the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator.

Calls are confidential with the following exceptions:

- Any allegation of child abuse concerning those who currently are minors must be reported to the Kansas Protection Report Center
800.922.5330
as required by Kansas State Law and
Diocesan Policy:
- Any allegation of child abuse including sexual misconduct must be shared with the proper Diocesan authorities.

reportabuse@salinadiocese.org



Diocese of Salina

PO Box 980

Salina, KS 67402-0980



A message from:

Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger

I am pleased to announce that the Catholic Diocese of Salina has excellent news to share with you. I am very pleased to report I have received a letter from our auditors which states, "Based on the results of our recently performed on-site audit of the Diocese of Salina, the Diocese has been found compliant with all audited Articles within the *Charter of the Protection of Children and Young People* for the 2014-2015 audit period."

We will not have an on-site audit next year, but will still have to submit all of the data for the annual paper audit. Therefore, please remember to continue keeping your statistics on how many trained, how many background checks were completed, how many bulletin announcements were published, etc. As usual this information will be due at the middle or end of June.

Know the Warning Signs of Abusers

- Goes overboard with physical touching.
- Bends established rules, encourages youth to break their parents rules.
- Takes photographs of children for no apparent reason.
- Showers a child with gifts or special attention.
- Tries to spend time alone with a child.
- Shows preference for a particular child or adolescent.
- Tries to meet up with the child outside of school or church.
- Sends personal messages to a student through text, phone calls or emails, etc.
- Provides alcohol, druges or pornography to minors.
- Prefers the company of children and youth over the company of adults.



Remember...

- ◇ Background checks must be done BEFORE a new hire or accepting a new volunteer.
- ◇ Background checks for clergy, employees and volunteers must be renewed every 5 years.
- ◇ VIRTUS on-line training should be completed at the same time of doing the ESR background check.
- ◇ At THIS time you only need to do the VIRTUS on-line training once.



Look for the next edition of *The Shepherd* in April.

OFFICE OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

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**WE PROMISE TO PROTECT
AND PLEDGE TO HEAL**