

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

July, 2016

Boundaries

Unless someone crosses the line, most people don't think about personal boundaries. But, learning about personal boundaries is the first step to personal safety.



Boundaries may be physical, emotional, mental, behavioral or spiritual. They can also involve language. Teaching boundary safety is not an easy task, it may be uncomfortable at first. One lesson may not be enough. It is important for us to watch for signs in ourselves and others that indicate that boundaries may be violated. Respecting physical boundaries is one way of showing the dignity and respect that God wants for each of us as God's creation. The more we know about boundary safety the more we can do to protect our children and give to them a lifetime of healthy relationships.

We can see the impact of boundaries in our own lives through reflection:

Growing up, what values, opinions and points of view were you expected to embrace as your own?

Do your views as an adult reflect the expectations imposed in your childhood?

Were you forced to accept uncomfortable boundaries by influential adults?



As a Community of Faith

We need to model and teach our children appropriate boundaries.

Reinforce the difference between "online" friendships and real world friendships.

Use your words and deeds to display the difference between family and friends, between what is for adults and what is for children.

Make clear to them the boundaries between their siblings, peers, and adults.

Pray for wisdom and guidance to live within your own boundaries and show respect for all human dignity.



Abuse of Minors Pastoral Response Hotline:

(Editorial Note)
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

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I had the opportunity to attend the National Safe Environment Victim Assistance Coordinator Conference in Denver, Colorado May 15th-May 18th.

The theme of this year's conference was "Refresh, Renew, Rededicate". While I was attending the conference I was able to set aside time for prayer and reflection as well as connect with colleagues all around the United States and Canada.

Through workshops, keynote speakers and panel discussions I was able to gain more knowledge about the important work of protecting God's children, as well as how to be more effective in our Diocese.

Along with that, I was able to personally visit with the staff at VIRTUS and ESR and network with other exhibitors and see what resources are available for the important work we do.

Please continue on this journey with me as we promise to protect and pledge to heal.

~Wendy Backes

Physical contact and affection with minors is important for a child's development and a positive part of our Ministry. The following examples are *generally* regarded as appropriate for maintaining proper professional boundaries.

- ✦ Side hugs
- ✦ Pats on the shoulder or back
- ✦ Hand shakes
- ✦ "High fives" and hand slapping
- ✦ Appropriate verbal praise
- ✦ Holding hands during prayer
- ✦ Fist bumps



Remember...

- ▲ Please notify the Safety and Security Office if you have a change in Safety Coordinators at your Parish or School.
- ▲ Please notify Safety and Security Office if you have changed your email address or contact information.
- ▲ Please look over your Parish/School spreadsheet this summer. Who will need up to update in 2016?
- ▲ Remind all employees, volunteers and educators VIRTUS training and ESR must be completed before beginning their ministry.



Pope Francis has made it clear that the Church must hold the protection of minors amongst her highest priorities."

- Fr. Federico Lombardi, SJ



Look for the next edition of
The Shepherd
in October.

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AND PLEDGE TO HEAL