

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

April 2020



April is designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Every April, many organizations, including Catholic dioceses, schools and parishes participate in National Child Abuse Prevention month to highlight the importance of protecting minors from abuse. These efforts are part of the ongoing work of the church in the United States to carry out the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Child abuse and neglect can often take place in the home and come from a person the child knows well — a parent, relative, babysitter, or friend of the family. There are four major types of child abuse maltreatment; neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse. Although any of the forms may be found separately, they often occur together.

Recent statistics tell us one out of every four girls, and one out of every six boys are sexually abused before they turn 18. If those statistics are correct, on every Sunday in our churches, there are children who have been abused and may continue to experience the pain of that abuse.

During this month of April see what you can do in your own parish community to raise awareness about child abuse prevention.

As a Community of Faith

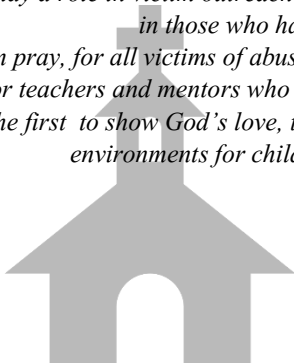
We are all part of a larger culture of protection and healing within the Church. As members of this culture, we value the prevention of abuse and the support of those have been abused. Each one of us can play an important role in strengthening this culture.

We can better prevent abuse by ensuring the signs of abuse are identified, taken seriously and reported.

We can be more aware of inappropriate behavior and then report our concerns through the appropriate channels.

We can play a role in victim outreach by listening, supporting and believing-in those who have been abused.

We can pray, for all victims of abuse, for those who provide help for the abused, for teachers and mentors who work with children and for all families, who are the first to show God's love, that they can provide safe and nurturing environments for children and young people.



If you are interested in taking Safe Environment Training for the Diocese of Salina, please contact The Office of Safety and Security 785-827-8746 #24

Any allegation of the abuse of a minor, may be reported to the Kansas Protection Report Center (1-800-922-5330), the KBI Crime Hotline (1-800-KSCRIME) or ClergyAbuse@kbi.ks.gov. The Diocese of Salina fully participates in all criminal investigations related to abuse perpetrated by a member of the clergy or other church official. For the safety of children and the healing of those who have suffered abuse,

THE DIOCESE OF SALINA

provides an

Abuse Response Hotline

1-785-825-0865

an

Abuse Response Email
(reportabuse@salinadiocese.org)

and an

Abuse Response Online
Submission Form

www.salinadiocese.org/safety-security

Reports will be responded to promptly by the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator. All reports are confidential with the exception of those involving the abuse of minors, which will be immediately reported by the Diocese to the proper authorities, as required by Kansas State Law and Diocesan Policy.



DIOCESE OF SALINA
PO BOX 2984
SALINA, KS 67402-2984

"We carry with us these days the pain and hope of all who may feel let down by the Church. Yet, we find ourselves grateful for the reminder that the future does not rest with any of us alone, but rather belongs to God. Hope is to be found in Christ. In Him, hope becomes unshakable."

—Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston and USCCB President

Ten Tips for Protecting Children and Offering Outreach to Victims/Survivors

1 Sexual abuse is about the victim.

Many people are affected by abuse but the individual most impacted is the victim who has suffered a violation of trust that can affect his or her entire life.

2 The residual effects of having been abused can last a lifetime.

The sense of violation goes deep into a person's psyche and feelings of anger, shame, hurt and betrayal can build long after the abuse has taken place. Those who have been abused can heal, but it often takes time, therapy, and the support of loved ones.

3 No one has the right to have access to children.

No one, no matter who they are, has an automatic right to be around children or young people who are in the care of the Church without proper screening and without following the rules.

4 Common sense is not all that common.

Dioceses, schools, parishes, and especially families, must educate themselves and others on how to protect children.

5 Child sexual abuse can be prevented.

It is critical to build safety barriers around children and young people to keep them from harm—such as protective guardians, codes of conduct, background evaluations, policies and procedures, and safety training programs.

6 Feeling heard leads toward healing.

Relief from hurt and anger often comes when one feels heard, when one's pain

and concerns are taken seriously, and a victim/survivor's suffering, pain, and anger are acknowledged.

7 You cannot always predict who will be an abuser.

Experience shows that most abuse is committed by someone who has gained the trust of a victim/survivor and his/her family.

8 There are behavioral warning signs of child abusers.

Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts, others allow young people to participate in activities which their parents or guardians would not approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, such as wrestling and tickling.

9 People can be taught to identify grooming behavior.

Grooming behaviors are the actions which abusers take to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship. Offenders can be patient and may groom their victim, his or her family, or community for years.

10 Background checks are important.

Background checks in churches, schools and other organizations keep predators away from children both because they scare off some predators and because they uncover past actions which should ban an adult from working or volunteering with children.



“The crimes of sexual abuse offend Our Lord, cause physical, psychological and spiritual damage to the victims, and harm the community of the faithful. In order that these phenomena, in all their forms, never happen again, a continuous and profound conversion of hearts is needed.”

~Pope Francis

Please remember....

CMGConnect has a new look. In December Catholic Mutual rolled out CMGConnect 2.0. Most of the updates have been completed for the end-user, but please be patient as they continue to make updates and implement new features for site and diocesan administrators.

Look for the next edition of *The Shepherd* in July 2020

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WE PROMISE TO PROTECT
AND PLEDGE TO HEAL