

THE SHEPHERD

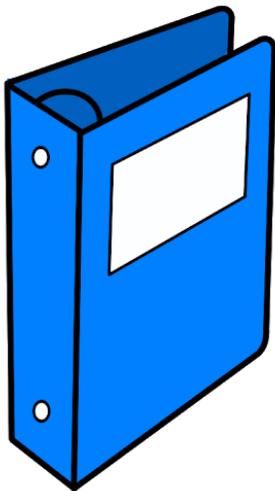
Safe Environment Office - Catholic Diocese of Salina

*"I am the good shepherd,
and I know mine and
mine know me,
just as the
Father knows me
and I know the Father;
and I will lay down my life
for the sheep"*

~John 10: 14-15

UPDATED SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

by Wendy Backes-Safe Environment Program Coordinator



The updated Safe Environment Program (Section IV of the blue diocesan handbook) was sent out to all Priests, Principals, PLC's, and Deacons in the parishes and schools in Diocese of Salina. This new update included a revised policy reflecting the 2018 charter revisions from the USCCB. In addition, this update detailed two new third-party reporting systems; one for bishops in regard to the Policy for Response to Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct by Bishops, the other, a reporting system for standard cases. Both of these systems have new and distinct hotline numbers and websites for reporting suspected abuse. The Safe Environment Program also includes other documents to enhance and carry out our mission; promise to protect, pledge to heal. Please be sure to take note of all the changes in the program, and particularly, the up-to-date contact information on how to report abuse. **Safety Coordinators**, I will be emailing you a pdf of the update, and will be mailing hard copies with the Safe Environment Newsletter in August.



To create a safe environment for children is of greatest importance for the Church, and everyone in the Church is responsible for ensuring that this exists. Protecting God's Children: It's Everyone's Job



Any allegation of the abuse of a minor, may be reported to the Kansas Protection Report Center 800.922.5330 KBI Crime Hotline 800.572.7463 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 healing of those who have suffered abuse, the Diocese of Salina provides Hotline: 866.752.8855 #1067 Website: www.reportandprotect.com Email: reportabuse@salinadiocese.org Reports will be responded to promptly by the Victim Assistance Coordinator.

*"Rescue me, Lord, from my foes,
for I seek refuge in you."
- Psalm 143:9*



Safe Environment Office
Diocese of Salina

To report an incident of sexual abuse and related misconduct by a Bishop or Religious Superior currently or in the past, the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Services provides Hotline: 800.276.1562 Website: reportbishopabuse.org

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.

CHANGES IN THE WORLD



by Wendy Backes- Safe Environment Program Coordinator

As we are faced with the many challenges in our world, especially in our own families during this global pandemic, let us too remember in our prayers, those victims and survivors of abuse, and also pray for those children who may not be safe in their own homes, as we continue to navigate through these difficult times.

Oh Lord, send forth your spirit and renew the face of the earth.

NEW LOOK

by Wendy Backes- Safe Environment Program Coordinator

After 5 years with the same format, it was time to give The Shepherd newsletter a new look. Even though the newsletter looks different, the purpose is the same. It continues to be an aid in promoting what the diocese is doing to continue to create stronger safe environment programs in our parishes and schools, and assists in supporting and providing outreach to victims of abuse. Let The Shepherd newsletter be an avenue to connect and build relationships with leaders in your parish, school, and community as we continue to work together in creating for children the kind of environment Christ teaches about in his gospel.

Along with the new look of the newsletter, we have updated the name of the office. It is now called the Safe Environment Office. The updated name ties together our purpose as we are committed to maintaining safe environments for children to learn, pray and grow. The Safe Environment office is now under the direction of Kim Hoelting, the director of Human Resources. I will be working closely with Kim in regard to background checks for new employees in the diocese and will continue my other job duties as Safe Environment Program Coordinator. Additionally, the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator is now referred to as the Victim Assistance Coordinator (VAC). The role of the VAC (Maria Cheney), has been elevated. The VAC is the **first** person you should contact if you have any questions or concerns related to boundary violations, when and if you should report suspected child abuse, or if you just need someone safe to talk to.

Should you need any further information, regarding any of the changes, please do not hesitate to contact us!

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IDEAS FOR NURTURING AND PROTECTING CHILDREN DURING CRISIS

www.childmind.org

As the coronavirus crisis pandemic continues, we are all struggling to keep our children healthy, safe and occupied, often juggling work responsibilities and obligations at the same time. We face stress, fear, anxiety and pressure. But, through all of this, we must still remain vigilant to the importance of keeping our children safe; at home (and for some, that might not be a safe place right now), in our churches, and in the community. As we continue to adapt to this difficult and unprecedented time, here are some suggestions for keeping children safe in our own homes.

Keep routines in place.

Setting and sticking to a regular schedule is key. Try to make sure kids still have some structure, like getting up and going to bed around the same time every day.



Consistency and structure are calming during times of stress.

Be creative about new activities.



Incorporate new activities into your routine, like doing puzzles, having game night or a maybe a baking contest.

Manage your own anxiety.



Keeping your own worries in check will help your whole family navigate this uncertainty a little more easily.

For those moments when you do catch yourself feeling anxious and you are feeling overwhelmed, step away, take a break, go outside, take a deep breath, get a cup of coffee.

Stay in touch virtually.

Keep your support network strong, even when you are only able to call or text family and friends. Socializing plays an important role in regulating your mood and helping you stay grounded. And the same is true for your children.



Let your children Skype or FaceTime Grandma, technology can help kids feel closer to relatives they can't see at the moment.

Keep kids in the loop- but keep it simple.

Talking to children in a clear responsible way about what is going on is the best way to help them understand. Keep in simple, there is no reason to volunteer information that might worry them.

Limit consumption of news.



Staying informed is important, but it's a good idea to limit consumption of news and social media that has potential to feed your anxiety, and that of your children.

Turn the TV off and mute or un-follow friends or coworkers who are prone to sharing panic-inducing posts.

Exercise.

Take a bike ride, go the park, take a family walk, go on a scavenger hunt.



Accept and ask for help.

Not all families handle crisis in the same manner. It is okay to ask for help from a professional, neighbor or family member. We are in this together, and we want people and families to remain safe and healthy.

Sometimes the path of least resistance is the right path.



Be reasonable and kind to yourself and to your children. You may need to relax some household rules for awhile. This is a unique situation in our lives, and trying to hold ourselves to pre-covid standards may not work right now.

Make Plans.

In the face of events that are out of our control, it is important to be proactive about what you **can** control. Making plans helps to visualize the near future. Assign tasks to your children, ("you pick where we get *take out* tomorrow night"), making them feel a part of the plan can be reassuring to them.