

# THE SHEPHERD

“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



**All parishes and schools are reminded to place this announcement in their parish bulletins or school newsletters/websites quarterly, then provide the Safe Environment Office a copy for diocesan files.**

Another summer has come and gone, our schools and parishes are once again filled with children!

If you were unable to attend the virtual TEAMS meetings that were held in July/August, please be sure to review the information that was emailed to you.

I look forward to another great year with you all and thank you for the work you do, as we continue our mission; promise to protect pledge to heal.

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have!

*Wendy*

wendy.backes@salinadiocese.org

## CMGConnect

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT DATABASE

The CMGConnect Database helps us to ensure that all clergy, educators, employees, and volunteers who work around minors have completed the safe environment requirements. Safety coordinators, please log in weekly and make any necessary updates.

Note: All expired users in the data base were archived on September 30, 2022, please contact the Safe Environment office for further information.

Report allegations of the abuse of a minor to the Department of Children and Families  
800.922.5330  
KBI Crime Hotline  
800.572.7463

If you suspect abuse of a minor by church or school personnel, in addition to contacting civil authorities, the diocese provides a confidential Hotline: 866.752.8855 ext.1067  
Website: reportandprotect.com  
Email: reportabuse@salinadiocese.org  
Reports will be responded to promptly by the Victim Assistance Coordinator

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 a confidential Hotline: 800.276.1562  
Website: reportbishopabuse.org

The Diocese of Salina complies with Kansas laws regarding reporting suspected abuse to civil authorities and cooperates with civil authorities investigating reports of suspected abuse by all persons, including but not limited to Church Personnel.



Questions regarding reporting should be directed to the Safe Environment Office Diocese of Salina -785.827. 8746

God is light; and in him there is no darkness. If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.”  
1 John 1:5-7



## NEWS AND NOTES *from the Safe Environment Office*

# THE ABCS OF CHILD PROTECTION *By Mary Jane Doerr*

- Abuse is never a child's fault, a point that children need to hear over and over again. Offenders try hard to make children feel complicit in the abuse or to blame them for the abuse. Children learn that that is never true! The blame always belongs to the adult who is taking advantage of a child's trust and vulnerabilities.
- *God loves children forever and wants them to live holy and happy lives. If a child has been abused, that child learns they are still innocent and loved by God and their families. The shame of child sexual abuse needs to be put where it belongs: on the abuser.*
- Abuse that has happened should be reported. Children learn to tell a parent or another trusted adult if someone is hurting them and to keep telling until they are believed. One study shows that children tell of their abuse an average of nine times before someone believes them. Parents can help children learn whom they can trust by pointing out the adults who can be trusted. Parents can also teach children the correct names of private body parts. This simple step gives children the vocabulary to tell others what happened to them.
- *You can recognize abuse when it happens. Children learn to trust that feeling that says something isn't right and to tell a parent or other trusted adult when something happens that makes them feel uneasy. Children learn to question if someone is telling them to do what the child doesn't like but says it is because he loves the child. Children learn to tell parents or trusted adult if another person makes them sad or confused or tries to get them to break rules. This can stop the process of grooming by which an abuser lures a child toward danger. A child who questions another's inappropriate behavior can send a message to the offender that this child is not an easy target, but one that will tell what is being done to him/her.*
- There are ways to spot a grooming process. Offenders are willing to spend a great deal of time grooming the family, the child and even the community so they may be seen as a trusted family friend. Children learn that anyone who lets children break rules, gives them alcohol or shows them pornography needs to be reported to parents and other trusted adults. Children learn not to keep secrets from parents. They learn that they should tell parents when someone gives them special gifts or is always touching them or tickling them and says not to tell.
- *Parents or other trusted adults will talk about this subject. Children often try to protect their parents from bad news, so they need to learn they can tell their parents anything. This lesson is conveyed when parents stay involved in their children's activities and talk with them about what is happening in their lives. This is how children learn what can be shared with parents. The more effective safe environment programs include parents in the learning process. This gives the child a clear signal that this subject is not off limits but instead is something to be talked about with family member*
- Boundaries exist. Learning about personal boundaries can protect children and their knowing boundaries reinforces the teaching to listen to one's instincts. Children who listen to the voice that says, This doesn't feel right, can protect themselves.
- *Children can stand up for themselves. Children need to be respectful and obey, yet at the same time need to know there are times when it is okay to say no to an adult. Children learn when it is appropriate for them to say, No, stop doing that. For example, they hear they can say no to someone who makes them uncomfortable, shows them pornography, or offers them alcohol.*
- There are ways to explain inappropriate behavior. Children learn how to describe what's happening when someone is doing something that just seems a little weird even though it may not seem wrong. The ability to articulate what has happened to a child enables a child to more easily confide in a parent or other trusted adult. This can alert the adult to a potentially dangerous situation so it can be avoided. This is ultimately the goal of safe environment education.

**PROMISE**  
To Protect  **Pledge**  
To HEAL

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Believe in  
the possibility of  
help and healing.  
There is hope  
reportabuse@salinadiocese.org  
866.752.8855 ext. 1067  
reportandprotect.com

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Human Resources  
Director  
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CATHOLIC DIOCESE  
of SALINA