

THE SHEPHERD

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Every April, we commemorate Child Abuse Prevention Month to highlight the importance of protecting minors from abuse.

- DID YOU KNOW: CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CAN BE PREVENTED

Awareness that child sexual abuse exists and can exist anywhere is a start. It is then critical to build safety barriers around children and young people to keep them from harm. These barriers come in the form of protective guardians, codes of conduct, background evaluations, policies and procedures, and safety training programs.

- DID YOU KNOW: THE RESIDUAL EFFECTS OF HAVING BEEN ABUSED CAN LAST A LIFETIME

Those who have been abused seldom just "get over it." 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. Some have even described the feeling as if it has scarred their soul. Those who have been abused can heal, but it often takes time, therapy, and the support of loved ones. As a Church, we can help support those who have been abused by keeping them in prayer and providing opportunities for healing

DID YOU KNOW: 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. With child sexual abuse, sixty percent of the time the offender is a family friend, acquaintance, or another trusted adult in the victim/survivor's life. Thirty percent of the time the offender is a family member. Sometimes an offender seems like the nicest person in the world, but this is often part of a process they use called "grooming" in order to gain the trust of the child they wish to abuse and the trust of his/her family.

What are you going to do during this month of April? If you are still undecided, the USCCB has some great resources for you to use. It's Never Too Early or Too Late, Child sexual abuse happens more than you think. But, research shows there's something simple and powerful you can do right now...

TALK ABOUT IT.



**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO
AS WE CONTINUE OUR MISSION, PROMISE TO PROTECT, PLEDGE TO HEAL.**

Wendy

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"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 and/or school newsletters/websites quarterly, then provide the Safe Environment Office a copy for diocesan files. If you need to change the format, please contact the SE office.

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



CMGConnect

SAFE ENVIRONMENT DATABASE

The CMGConnect Database helps us to ensure that all clergy, educators, employees, and volunteers who work with minors, have completed the safe environment requirements. Safety coordinators, please log in weekly and make any necessary updates. With that, updated Certification Status Sheets - due April 1, 2023. Have you submitted yours to the SE office?

2023 SAFETY COORDINATOR SHOUT – OUT’S



Each month we give a shout-out to a safety coordinator at a parish or school who is well deserving.

During the month of **JANUARY**, we recognized and honored Michele Goscha-Laumann.

Michele Goscha-Laumann is an active member of St. Mary’s Parish in Smith Center. She started teaching CCD in 2014, and is currently DRE, Catechist, and Safety Coordinator. Michele has many responsibilities at the parish where she demonstrates her gifts of being very organized, efficient, dependable, professional, and most importantly, communicating our mission, promise to protect, pledge to heal.

Michele and her husband Kevin have been married for 9 years and have 2 sons, Christian (8) and Elliot (6). She enjoys working in her parish, trying new projects, programs, and activities; hoping to grow the faith of everyone she reaches.

We greatly appreciate Michele’s work as Safety Coordinator and all she does at St. Mary’s Parish-Smith Center.

“All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.” ~St. Francis of Assisi

During the month of **FEBRUARY** we recognized and honored Susan Kisner.

Susan Kisner is an active member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays, KS. Susan is very organized, dependable and is always willing to help whenever needed. Susan’s attention to detail is what stands out most, which is so important as we continue to train and educate our parish community; promise to protect, pledge to heal.

Susan is married to Deacon Dave, and they have two sons. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with their four grandchildren and family.

We greatly appreciate Susan’s work as Safety Coordinator and all she does at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish-Hays.

“Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.” ~ Pope St John Paul II

During the month of **MARCH**, we recognized and honored Christina Whitehair.

Christina Whitehair is currently the principal of St. Andrew’s School in Abilene. She received her Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in Elementary Education from Fort Hays State University. She completed requirements for her administrator’s license at Kansas Newman University. Christina has more than thirty years of teaching experience. She also has several years of experience helping other schools through the accreditation process. She is an experienced religion teacher, youth coach, certified catechist, and Safety Coordinator at St. Andrew’s School.

Christina and her husband Kevin enjoy traveling and spending time with their children and grandchildren, she also enjoys, baking, drawing, and spending time outdoors enjoying nature. Christina is professional, organized, dependable, and hard working. Christina’s strong communication skills are what stand out most, which is so important as we continue to train and educate people in our parishes, schools, and community; with our mission, promise to protect, pledge to heal.

We greatly appreciate Christina’s work as Safety Coordinator and all she does at St. Andrew’s School in Abilene, KS

“Love God, serve God; everything is in that.”~St. Clare of Assisi



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Believe in
the possibility of
help and healing.
There is hope
reportabuse@salinadiocese.org
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