



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

2110 Broadway • Sacramento, California 95818 • 916/733-0237 • Fax 916/733-0195

Safe Environment

To: Bulletin Editors
From: Katita Schloemann, Safe Environment Coordinator, 916-733-0227

Child Abuse Prevention Month – Bulletin Announcements

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is most appropriate that Child Abuse Prevention Month is held during the Easter season. There is no better time than Easter to celebrate the protection of our most valuable gift from God – our children.

Prayer for Healing

Good and Gracious God,
Hear the humble prayer of your people
as we implore your mercy for the wrong that has been committed
and the harm that has been done.

Bring healing to all who have suffered abuse
and restore them to fullness of life.

Grant the spirit of repentance and penitence
to all who have broken sacred trust
and abused your beloved children.

Reconcile us to one another
and never allow us to be parted from you.

We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ,
your son, who has freed us from sin
and death, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

For specific information on Safe Environment requirements for the Diocese of Sacramento, please visit: www.scd.org/safe-environment





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Child Abuse Prevention Month Reporting Abuse

If anyone has witnessed, or has reason to believe, or might suspect, there is or has been abuse involving clergy, employees or volunteers at any of our Catholic schools, parish religious education programs or other church-related events, those suspicions or allegations are to be reported first to civil authorities (law enforcement, child protective services, or adult protective services) and then to the Diocese via the toll-free line at 866-777-9133. You may also reach the Pastoral Care Coordinator at 916-733-0142. Reports can be made in English and Spanish.

Child Abuse Prevention Month Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* was established by the USCCB in June 2002. It is a comprehensive set of procedures for addressing allegations of abuse of minors. The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability, and prevention of future acts of abuse.

The Charter calls for annual audits of diocese and eparchies to ascertain compliance with the USCCB guidelines. The Diocese of Sacramento has been in compliance with all audit requirements since 2003. Compliance is based upon inquiry, observation and review of specifically requested documentation.

For the most current national audit results, please visit: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/upload/Charter-for-the-Protection-of-Children-and-Young-People-2018-final.pdf>

Child Abuse Prevention Month Safe Environment Requirements

All clergy and employees and volunteers who have contact with minors are required to complete safe environment requirements for the Diocese of Sacramento. The requirements include a background check clearance through the Department of Justice for volunteers - clergy and employees are cleared through the Department of Justice and FBI.

In addition to background checks, clergy, employees and volunteers are required to complete a child abuse recognition and reporting program. The training is completed through Safe Haven and has to be renewed every 3 years. Safe Haven is a 3 part video series, which identifies real-



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life abuse and neglect situations that adults may encounter. The training addresses important topics such as pornography, grooming techniques, social media interaction and boundary violations.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.scd.org/safe-environment>

Child Abuse Prevention Month Safe Environment Training for Youth – Circle of Grace

Article 12 of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* calls for all dioceses to maintain safe environment programs for youth. Through the ***Circle of Grace*** program, the Diocese of Sacramento continues to fulfill this commitment. ***Circle of Grace*** serves the dual purpose of educating and informing children about the value of positive relationships with God and others. Children are taught to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional and spiritual boundaries; recognize when boundary violations are about to occur; and demonstrate how to take action when boundaries are threatened or violated.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.scd.org/safe-environment>
