Honor Thy Children

Stop Child Abuse

- More than *five children die every day* as a result of child abuse.

- A report of child abuse is made *every ten seconds*.

- As many as *one in four girls* and *one in six boys* will be *sexually abused* at some point in their childhood.

- Child abuse occurs at every socioeconomic level, across ethnic and cultural lines, within all religions, and at all levels of education.

- Approximately *one in seven youth* (10 to 17 years of age) have *received a sexual solicitation or approach* over the Internet.

- *88% of sexual abuse cases are never reported* to the authorities.

In the Archdiocese of Louisville, we have sought to confront, seek forgiveness and establish systems of prevention and education about child abuse in our own midst. We appreciate the many community agencies who are working on the goal of preventing and healing child abuse.

During April – *Child Abuse Prevention Month* – we seek to raise awareness about child abuse and how to respond.

WAYS TO COMBAT CHILD ABUSE:

- Recognize that *all adults have the responsibility* to report abuse.

- *Report suspected abuse.* Call the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-752-6200 or the Indiana Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-800-5556.

- Listen to and honor children by giving them a voice. *Create an environment of responsiveness and comfort* so that children feel free to disclose if they feel threatened or have been abused.

- Become informed about child abuse and speak out about it. *Silence encourages abuse*.

- *Encourage adults who are victims* of childhood abuse to report crimes to authorities and to seek counseling. The agencies listed below can refer victims/survivors to competent counselors.

- *Donate gifts of time, talent and treasure* to agencies working to combat abuse.

For further suggestions on actions that can be taken, go to www.archlou.org/stopabuse.

The Archdiocese of Louisville thanks the many community agencies that serve and support children and families that are victims of abuse. Below is a sampling of organizations in the Louisville area: