



HONOR THY CHILDREN

Archdiocese of Louisville continuing education for the awareness and prevention of child abuse

NATIONAL SAFE ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE GATHERS

Prevention starts with understanding

Safe Environment Coordinators as well as Victim Assistance Coordinators from around the United States gathered in Covington, Kentucky June 1st through the 3rd to discuss Safe Environment Issues facing the Catholic Church. Representing the Archdiocese of Louisville were Martine Siegel, Victim Assistance Coordinator and Scott Fitzgerald, Coordinator of Safe Environment Services.

The conference addressed many issues and highlighted the progress being made when it comes to Safe Environment and Victim Assistance.

Several facets of Safe Environment were discussed at every level.

Msgr. Robert Oliver is the Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors in Rome. He spoke to participants about efforts by the Vatican to take the accomplishments made in the United States world-wide.

Participants also heard from Bishop Edward Burns, Bishop of Juneau who also

serves as chair of the USCCB Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People via video message from the Alaskan capital. Bishop Burns under-



Bishop Joseph Binzer the Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati speaks to conference attendees.

scored the accomplishments being made at every level of the Catholic Church when it comes to keep children safe.

There were also speakers from outside the church. On day three of the conference participants heard from Robert Hugh Farley a retired commanding officer of the Cook County Sheriff's Police, Child Exploitation Unit in Chicago.

In 2007 Robert supervised the internal investigation,

following sexual abuse allegations, at Oprah Winfrey's School for Girls in South Africa. In 2011, Robert became the first police officer to conduct a child sexual abuse training seminar for the clergy in the Vatican. Robert shared his experiences going undercover apprehending pedophiles, discussing methods used and the mindset of those who have intentions on harming children.

Also discussed was canon law with Rev. Steve Angi, Chancellor for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati as well as civilian law and how to navigate both with Carrie Huff who is a Chicago based attorney that works with multiple dioceses and religious communities as they deal with sexual abuse cases.

The next gathering of Safe Environment Coordinators and Victim Assistance Coordinators will be May (2016) in Denver Colorado.

Archdiocese of Louisville

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If you need support or someone to talk to:

- ☺ Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky or Indiana:
800.CHILDREN/
800.422.4453
www.pcaky.org
www.pcaain.org
- ☺ Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline
800.4.A.CHILD
800.422.4453
www.childhelp.org

Signs of Possible Sexual Abuse

- Unexplained pain, itching, redness or bleeding in the genital area
- Increased nightmares or bedwetting
- Withdrawn behavior
- Angry outbursts/mood swings
- Loss of appetite or difficulty swallowing
- Sudden/unexplained avoidance of certain people or places
- Sexual knowledge, language or behavior that is unusual for the child's age.

HONOR THY CHILDREN TRAINING

Those employed or volunteering with youth must undergo a background check every 5 years as well as attend the "Honor Thy Children Training" that addresses child abuse, how to recognize it and how to report it. See your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator if you have not sat-

isfied either of these requirements. The "Honor Thy Children" training is a one time requirement and is normally completed within 30 days of beginning service. Each training session lasts 2 hours. The background check MUST be completed BEFORE any service/employment begins.

SIGNS OF POSSIBLE SEXUAL ABUSE

1. Unexplained injuries: Visible signs of physical abuse may include unexplained burns or bruises in the shape of objects. You may also hear unconvincing explanations of a child's injuries.

2. Changes in behavior: Abuse can lead to many changes in a child's behavior. Abused children often appear scared, anxious, depressed, withdrawn or more aggressive.

3. Returning to earlier behaviors: Abused children may display behaviors shown at earlier ages, such as thumb-sucking, bed-wetting, fear of the dark or strangers. For some children, even loss of acquired language or memory problems may be an issue.

4. Fear of going home: Abused children may express apprehension or anxiety about leaving school or about going places with the person who is abusing them.

5. Changes in eating: The stress, fear and anxiety caused by abuse can lead to changes in a child's eating behaviors, which may result in weight gain or loss.

6. Changes in sleeping: Abused children may have frequent nightmares or have difficulty falling asleep, and as a result may appear tired or fatigued.

7. Changes in school performance and attendance: Abused children may have difficulty concentrating in school or have excessive absences,

sometimes due to adults trying to hide the child's injuries from authorities.

8. Lack of personal care or hygiene: Abused and neglected children may appear uncared for. They may present as consistently dirty and have severe body odor, or they may lack sufficient clothing for the weather.

9. Risk-taking behaviors: Young people who are being abused may engage in high-risk activities such as using drugs or alcohol or carrying a weapon.

10. Inappropriate sexual behaviors: Children who have been sexually abused may exhibit overly sexualized behavior or use explicit sexual language.

Consider the possibility of sexual abuse when the child:

- Has difficulty walking or sitting
- Suddenly refuses to change for gym or to participate in physical activities
- Reports nightmares or bed-wetting
- Experiences a sudden change in appetite
- Demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior
- Becomes pregnant or contracts a venereal disease, particularly if under age 14
- Runs away
- Reports sexual abuse by a parent or another adult caregiver

Consider the possibility of sexual abuse when the parent or other

UPCOMING TRAININGS

A current list of trainings is always available at www.archlou.org/safe
All trainings are at 6:30p unless otherwise indicated

7.6.15

St. Paul

7.20.15

St. Mary School

8.5.15

Holy Trinity (Louisville)

8.10.15

St. Gregory (Cox's Creek)

8.11.15

Assumption High School (1p)

8.17.15

Holy Spirit (Louisville)

8.24.15

St. Albert the Great

8.31.15

St. Dominic (Springfield)

9.10.15

St. Augustine (Lebanon)

There are additional trainings scheduled. Be sure to check archlou.org/safe for a complete

adult caregiver:

- Is unduly protective of the child or severely limits the child's contact with other children, especially of the opposite sex
 - Is secretive and isolated
 - Is jealous or controlling with family members
- Always report abuse via the Kentucky's Child Protection Hotline: 1-877-KYSAFE or 1-877-597-2331

COUNTY, STATE AND NATIONAL SEXUAL ABUSE DATA

Child abuse and neglect are problems throughout Louisville, Southern Indiana and the entire country. The only way we are going to work towards ending child abuse and neglect is through education. Below are some staggering facts and statistics from Jefferson County, the state of Kentucky, and the United States.

According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) for Jefferson County, the Department for Community Based Services received 12,236 contacts from people who were reporting suspected child abuse and neglect in Jefferson County in State Fiscal Year 2013. This is up from 8,593 as recently as 2009.

It is important to note, this data has not been independently verified. Please interpret the data with caution, as increases or decreases in the numbers could have occurred for different reasons.

Contacts that meet criteria for acceptance (meaning the accepted reports that meet the statutory and regulatory definitions of what would



constitute abuse, neglect or dependency where the alleged perpetrator is in a caretaking role) were up dramatically to 12,236 from 9,823 just a year ago.

Furthermore 854 children were removed from homes in state fiscal year 2013 up from 752 the year before.

Fifteen children died (or nearly died) as a result of abuse or neglect in Jefferson County last year, up one from the year before. That's fifteen too many.

Statewide according to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, in 2013, 52,068 children were subject to an investigative report while 17,917 children were found by child protective services to be victims of maltreatment

On a national level according to the Child Welfare Information Gateway, in the United States in 2012, 686,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect. Children aged 0-1 year had the highest of victimization at 21.9 per 1,000 children. 640 children died from abuse and neglect and 70.3% of children who died due to abuse and neglect were younger than 3 years old.

The online [Kentucky Child/Adult Protective Services Reporting System](https://prdweb.chfs.ky.gov/ReportAbuse/home.aspx) (<https://prdweb.chfs.ky.gov/ReportAbuse/home.aspx>) is available for professionals to report non-emergency situations that do not require an immediate response from our staff. The website is monitored from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time Monday through Friday. Reports will not be reviewed during evenings, weekends or state holidays.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SAFETY PROGRAMS

While the Speak Up/Be Safe Program offers children in our schools education about sexual abuse, we also offer curriculums to our parish religious education programs. These programs cover basic safe environment information and are complimented by the faith-based content presented in parish catechetical programs. Parish catechetical leaders are asked to introduce new age-appropriate videos to further enhance what is already in place.

The following curriculums are available on a limited basis through the

Family Ministries Office or you may order a copy for yourself.

SAFE SHEEP IN OUR FLOCK (Grades 1-4): SAFE SHEEP is a Catholic faith based "safe touch" and general safety program for primary grades. **SAFE SHEEP** is a "safe touch" and general safety program for primary grades. **SAFE SHEEP** delivers the sensitive subjects of "safe touch" with age-appropriate candor presented through engaging animation, ventriloquism, and humor. **(\$100.00 each) ORDER FROM:**

<http://safesheep.org>

VIOLENCE PREVENTION: Abuse: If It Happens To You (Grades 5-8):

This program is designed to help young teens understand that abuse, of all types, is more common than they think and if it happens to them, they need to tell a trusted adult. It examines the different types of abuse that can occur: physical, emotional, and sexual, and helps young teens understand that the victim is never at fault and did not cause or deserve the abuse. One of the biggest reasons

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No child or adult should ever experience abuse by anyone, especially a church minister. We all have the right to be treated with dignity and to expect our church to reflect the goodness of God in all of its dealings.

We hope that this information is helpful to all in our communities who are working to prevent and respond to childhood sexual abuse. Please let us know if you need further assistance or information by calling or emailing our victim assistance coordinator, Ms. Martine Siegel, at 502/636-1044; victimassistance@archlou.org or the Chancery at 502/585-3291.

We must heed God's call to care for the most vulnerable among us and to continue our efforts toward wholeness and health in dealing with sexual abuse.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SAFETY PROGRAMS (Cont.)

victims don't speak out is because they think no one will believe them. This program assures young people that while this can happen in some cases, the victim must continue to speak out until someone listens and takes what they say seriously. Use this program to educate your students and help them come forward if they have been abused. **(\$129.95)**

ORDER FROM: <http://www.sdteach.com/abuse-if-it-happens-you-dvd.html>

WHAT TADOO (Grades 1-2): With the help of two puppet frogs, What and Tadoo, Thaddeus learns how to protect himself from strangers with four basic rules: Say No, Get Away, Tell Someone, and if needed, Yell.

Highly recommended by prevention professionals, this program looks at the lures strangers use to entice children, and the "uh-oh feeling" they experience with certain touches.

(\$95) ORDER FROM: <http://empowerkids.com/html/order.htm>

WHAT TADOO WITH SECRETS (Grades 3-4): Seven year-old Juliette learns that secrets can be good or bad, and that telling bad secrets to a caring adult is the right thing to do. Professor Sir Hillary Von Carp and his wise frog friends, What and Tadoo, team up again to teach important lessons in making choices, distinguishing "good" secrets from "bad", and following basic rules for getting help or helping oneself. **(\$95) ORDER**

FROM: <http://empowerkids.com/html/order.htm>

Should you have any questions or to reserve a copy of these curriculums don't hesitate to contact Scott Fitzgerald, Coordinator of Safe Environment Services via email (fitzgerald@archlou.org) or phone (502.471.2132).

Thank you for your leadership in making our parishes safe for our children.

