



THE CHANCERY

Archdiocese of Louisville

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Pastors and Pastoral Administrators

FROM: Brian B. Reynolds, Ed. D.
Chancellor

DATE: March 23, 2012

RE: Child Abuse Prevention Month

Ensuring our parishes and schools are safe environments for children and youth requires the commitment of all of us, and I am grateful for your efforts in support of safe environment programming.

Since April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, we are forwarding some suggested bulletin blurbs for each of the weekends in April.

There are many other resources available electronically on the USCCB website at:
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/resources/child-abuse-prevention-month-resources.cfm>.

In addition, we are coordinating a series of newspaper ads calling attention to the seriousness of child abuse and the requirement to report. They will be running in mid-April.

Please feel free to use these materials as you see fit. I appreciate your support and encouragement of this important effort.

Suggested Bulletin Blurbs

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (March 31-April 1)

Preventing Child Abuse Is Everyone's Responsibility

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Every adult has a moral responsibility to report suspected child abuse. In Kentucky, state law requires that any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is neglected or abused must immediately report the abuse. Sexual abuse of minors is a pervasive societal problem, and only concerted and sustained efforts by all adults in every segment of society can help to protect children and youth. Report suspected abuse. Call the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline at 800-752-6200 or see www.archlou.org/report for a list of reporting contacts organized by county.

Easter Sunday (April 7-8)

Rejoice in Hope

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The hope of Easter reminds us to celebrate our lives as fully redeemed, fully loved, and fully alive human beings, and to reach out to victims and survivors of sexual abuse so that they may have lives of hope and wholeness. For more information on preventing sexual abuse and on victim assistance efforts, visit www.archlou.org/restoringtrust.

2nd Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday (April 14-15)

Did You Know?

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Did you know that more than five children die every day as a result of child abuse, and that a report is made every ten seconds? In addition, as many as one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused at some point in their childhoods; one in seven youth (10 to 17 years old) have received a sexual solicitation or approach over the Internet, and 88% of sexual abuse cases are never reported. See our full-page ad in *The Courier-Journal* today or in *The Record* on Thursday to find out how you can help or go to www.archlou.org/restoringtrust for more information.

3rd Sunday of Easter (April 21-22)

Honor Thy Children-Stop Child Abuse

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Many organizations work together in our communities to prevent child abuse by providing services, programs, and support for children and families that are the victims of abuse. During Child Abuse Prevention Month we want to recognize all of these efforts to address the goal of preventing and healing child abuse. See our full-page ad in *The Courier-Journal* today or in *The Record* on Thursday for a list of some of these organizations in the Louisville area and how you can help or go to www.archlou.org/restoringtrust for more information.

4th Sunday of Easter (April 28-April 29)

Assistance Ministry Helps Abuse Victims

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Did you know that outreach to victims of sexual abuse is one of the ministries in the Archdiocese? Dr. Tom Robbins, the archdiocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator in the Family Ministries Office provides victims with assistance towards healing. If now or at any time in the past someone representing the Church has sexually abused you, please contact Dr. Robbins at 502/636-1044 or counseling@archlou.org.