

BULLETIN POSSIBILITIES
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH ~ APRIL 2018

During April Child Abuse Prevention Month, we are reminded of the call to be instruments of justice, working for the common good of all, which includes the protection of children. As Jesus entrusts to Peter the care of the flock, we are reminded that this responsibility belongs to everyone as a matter of charity and justice. Child Abuse Prevention Month should lead to heightened awareness of the need to be vigilant about providing a safe environment for all within the Church and for our communities.

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

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* calls for annual audits of dioceses and eparchies to ascertain compliance with the USCCB *Charter* guidelines. Annual audits have been conducted since 2003. Results of the audits are published annually on the USCCB website. The Diocese of Saginaw has been found to be in compliance with the audit every year from 2003 to the present.

To report child abuse/neglect in Michigan:

- If you suspect a child is in imminent danger from abuse, please call 911 immediately
- To report known or suspected child abuse/neglect, contact: Department of Human Services/Child Protective Services at the 24/7 hotline: **855-444-3911**
- To report known or suspected child abuse/neglect to the Diocese of Saginaw contact: Janet Fulgenzi, OP,PhD, Office of Child and Youth Protection~ Victim/Survivor Assistance Coordinator 989-797-6682 jfulgenzi@dioceseofsaginaw.org
- State of Michigan Child Protection Law ~ go to www.michigan.gov/dhs

POSSIBLE PETITIONS for CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
APRIL, 2018

For the Church and its leaders, especially our Holy Father, the bishops and all entrusted with the care of the Lord's flock, that they may truly fill the role of shepherd and protect all in their flock, especially children and young people, we pray to the Lord . . .

For civic leaders entrusted with upholding the common good and justice for all that they may act in ways that show their commitment to the protection of all, especially children and young people, we pray to the Lord . . .

For parents, mentors, teachers, coaches and all who work with children and young people, that they may look after them with the watchful eye of the shepherd, we pray to the Lord . . .

For families who are the first to show God's love, that they may have the necessary support to provide safe and nurturing environments for children and young people, we pray to the Lord . . .

For those who have suffered abuse, that they may experience God's profound love for them and God's healing powers, we pray to the Lord . . .

For those who provide help for the abused: counselors, therapists, and advocates that they may act with wisdom and compassion in their healing ministry, we pray to the Lord . . .

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As we acknowledge National Child Abuse Prevention Month . . . (pause) we ask that our God of endless love may grant us strength, courage, and wisdom to protect all children from abuse of any kind. We pray to the Lord.

As we mark the 16th Anniversary of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops "*Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*" . . . (pause) we ask that we may all be firm in the promise to protect and help heal those children wounded by abuse that they may find peace of body, mind, and spirit. We pray to the Lord.

We join with Pope Francis in his prayer for victims of child abuse . . . (pause) we humbly ask for the courage to acknowledge and repair past injustices, may God give us the strength to remain faithful in the work of protecting those most vulnerable. We pray to the Lord.

For those who have been educated to protect our children and young people from sexual abuse . . . (pause) may they have open hearts to always be guided by the hand of God. We pray to the Lord.

For the Church . . . (pause) that we may dedicate ourselves to the care, nurture, and protection of all God's children. We pray to the Lord.