

April 2022

Child Abuse Prevention Month

20 Years of Healing and Protection



20 Years of Protection and Healing

Since the US Catholic Bishops passed the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* 20 years ago:

- Victim Assistance Coordinators have helped thousands of individuals seek healing and justice.
- As many as 2.6 million adults have been trained annually to recognize and respond to abuse
- As many as 3.6 million children per year have been educated in the signs of right relationships versus abusive ones and how to seek help from an adult.
- Catechists, youth ministers, Catholic School teachers, volunteers & parents have taken the trauma-sensitive perspective developed through safe environment training into public schools and community settings.
- Adults have helped youth experience right relationships.
- Children have used have the tools learned through safe environment education to seek help for themselves or others when a relationship isn't right.
- Parishioners have grown in their understanding of the devastating impact of abuse, its warning signs, and how to seek help.
- For 20 years, parish communities have lifted in prayer all harmed by abuse and have prayed for the healing and protection of all God's children.

Come join us!



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Take time before Mass to pray the Lectio Divina Find direction and reflections at: https://www.gdiocese.org/materials-resources</p> | | | | | <p>1 Read the <i>Charter Preamble</i> https://www.usccb.org/test/upload/Charter-for-the-Protection-of-Children-and-Young-People-2018-final(1).pdf</p> | <p>2 Learn what the Church is doing to prevent abuse https://youtu.be/b6cW4YUsTIA</p> |
| <p>3 Pray the Mass Readings and Reflections at: https://www.gdiocese.org/materials-resources</p> | <p>4 Read the <i>Charter Article 1</i> Diocese of Grand Island Victim Assistance</p> | <p>5 Learn more about <i>Victim Assistance Ministry</i></p> | <p>6 Pray a <i>Rosary for Healing & Protection</i> —Glorious Mysteries</p> | <p>7 Read the <i>Charter Article 2</i> Diocese of Grand Island <i>Child Protection Policy</i></p> | <p>8 Pray <i>The Way: Stations of the Cross for Survivors of Abuse</i> https://youtu.be/2GeJ8P_FRxw</p> | <p>9 Share the Signs of Right Relationships</p> |
| <p>10 Palm Sunday Pray the Mass Readings and Reflections at: https://www.gdiocese.org/materials-resources</p> | <p>11 Read the <i>Charter Articles</i> Responding to Abuse</p> | <p>12 Pray a <i>Rosary for Healing & Protection</i> - Sorrowful Mysteries</p> | <p>13 Read the <i>Charter Article 5</i> Learn more about the DRB</p> | <p>14 Holy Thursday Pray <i>A Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse</i></p> | <p>15 Good Friday Pray the Mass Pray <i>A Prayer for Healing at Bedtime</i></p> | <p>16 Holy Saturday Pray the Mass Pray for the Intercession of St. Maria Goretti</p> |
| <p>17 Easter Pray the Mass Readings and Reflections at: https://www.gdiocese.org/materials-resources</p> | <p>18 Read the <i>Charter Article 6</i> Diocese of Grand Island <i>Code of Conduct</i></p> | <p>19 Attend the Mass for Healing and Reparation 5:15 pm</p> | <p>20 Read the <i>Charter Articles 7 & 14</i> Break the Silence: Share the Facts</p> | <p>21 Pray a <i>Rosary for Healing & Protection</i> - Luminous Mysteries</p> | <p>22 Read the Charter Articles 8 & 15</p> | <p>23 Read the Charter Articles 9 & 10</p> |
| <p>24 Pray the Mass Readings and Reflections at: https://www.gdiocese.org/materials-resources</p> | <p>25 Read the <i>Charter Article 11</i> Annual Report 2020</p> | <p>26 Read the <i>Charter Articles 12 & 13</i> Share the Signs of a Safe Program</p> | <p>27 Read the <i>Charter Article 16</i> The John Jay Studies</p> | <p>28 Read the <i>Charter</i> Pray for Vocations</p> | <p>29 Read the <i>Charter Conclusion</i> Prayer for a Suffering Church</p> | <p>30 Pray a <i>Rosary for Healing & Protection</i> - Joyful Mysteries</p> |

Learn What the Catholic Church is Doing to Prevent Abuse—Watch this short video: <https://youtu.be/b6cW4YUstIA>
For more information attend Safe Environment Training at a parish near you.

Break the Silence— Sexual abuse and exploitation thrive in silence. Speak out against abuse and exploitation—share statistics and warning signs. https://youtu.be/-ow_lmZRZ94

Pray the Mass
In addition to mass attendance this month, practice Lectio Divina with a Sunday or Holy Week reading. Find Readings and Reflections at: <https://www.gdiocese.org/material-s-resources>

Read the Charter
The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Passed by the Catholic Bishops of the United States in June 2002 as a comprehensive set of procedures to address allegations of sexual abuse of minors by clergy, the Charter directs action in all of the following areas:

- Healing and reconciliation for victims and survivors;
- Cooperation with civil authorities;
- Discipline of offenders;
- The creation of safe environments for children and young people;
- The development of a means of accountability for the future.

Find the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People at: [https://www.usccb.org/test/upload/Charter-for-the-Protection-of-Children-and-Young-People-2018-final\(1\).pdf](https://www.usccb.org/test/upload/Charter-for-the-Protection-of-Children-and-Young-People-2018-final(1).pdf)

Learn more about Victim Assistance Ministry
Since 2004 every diocese and eparchy in the country has had a Victim Assistance Ministry. Victim Assistance Coordinators across the country have helped thousands of individuals harmed by abuse find justice and healing. Learn more about this important ministry in these brief videos from the Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection (SCYP): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vr0M-zPWOA>

Pray A Rosary for Healing and Protection
Join dioceses across the country in praying *A Rosary for Healing and Protection*. Find a rosary guide at: <https://www.scd.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Rosary-for-Healing-2.pdf>

Pray The Way: Stations of the Cross for Survivors of Abuse
Christ knows our pain. Through His Passion Christ experienced every conceivable hurt. In His Resurrection Christ shows us the way to hope and healing. Whether you have personally experienced the pain and suffering of abuse, are walking with a loved one who has, or are seeking to find the way to heal our suffering world, please join us in praying *The Way: Stations of the Cross for Survivors of Abuse* (Sue Stubbs, MS, NCC). Pray along with previously recorded prayers at: <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysdi/videos/161264685894800>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIWKi26_J5U&list=UUGUv8gOMByRuNm-tsrE0NQw&index=158&t=175s

<https://www.facebook.com/sidstpats/videos/290988312612939>

Responses available here: <https://gdiocese.org/documents/2021/4/Responses%20for%20The%20Way%20Stations%20of%20the%20Cross%20for%20Survivors%20of%20Abuse.pdf>

The stations were developed as part of *The Way: Healing Retreats for Adult Survivors of Abuse*. To find a retreat in Nebraska go to: <https://www.gdiocese.org/victim-assistance>

Share the Signs of Right Relationships

Right relationships are based on authentic love. They are characterized by honesty, forgiveness, open communication, dependability / commitment, humor, freedom, unconditional love and attention, patience, respect, boundaries, safety and security. Learn more about right relationships at: <https://www.gdiocese.org/children-and-youth>

A Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse

Pray the SCYP prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse. <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-healing-victims-abuse>

Pray A Prayer for Healing at Bedtime

Find this and other prayers at: <https://www.gdiocese.org/victim-assistance>

Pray for the Intercession of Saint Maria Goretti Patroness of Abused Children

Saint Maria Goretti is the patron saint of abused children. Pray that she will intercede to heal all who have been harmed by abuse. <http://diocesec.org/prayer-to-patroness-of-abused-children/>

Attend the Mass for Healing and Reparation

Join Bishop Joseph G. Hanefeldt in praying for all affected by abuse at the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 112 South Cedar, Grand Island, Nebraska. Live stream available at:

or <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGUv8gOMByRuNm-tsrE0NQw>
Find the worship guide at: <https://www.gdiocese.org/news-events>

The Mass has been an annual event since the 10th anniversary of the Charter when healing masses and prayer services were celebrated across the diocese.

Read the Diocese of Grand Island Child Protection Policy

Since the Charter, every diocese and eparchy in the country has policies and procedures in place to “respond promptly to any allegations” and to “create a safe environment for children and youth.” Read the Diocese of Grand Island Child Protection Policy here: <https://www.gdiocese.org/policy-procedures>

Practice a Protective Response to Disclosures of Abuse

Resilience in the face of childhood abuse has been found to be related to the presence of safe, stable, nurturing relationships with adults ; and a prompt and protective response to disclosure or discovery of abuse. Learn more about responding to disclosures of abuse at:

<https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/22798/documents/2019/8/Continuing%20Education%202008.pdf>

Learn More about the DRB

Every diocese and eparchy in the country has a Diocesan Review Board (DRB), who advise the Bishop regarding allegations of abuse by clergy. What is a DRB? Find out at:

<https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/22798/documents/2019/8/What%20is%20a%20Diocesan%20Review%20Board.pdf>

Break the Silence

Everything about abuse pulls for silence. Break the silence of abuse by increasing awareness.

Share the facts: In the United States, one in four girls and one and six boys is abused by age eighteen. Thanks to efforts like the Charter, there is hope for resilience and healing.

https://youtu.be/-ow_lmZRZ94

To learn more, attend a Safe Environment Training through your parish or diocese. Go to: <https://www.gdiocese.org/training>

Annual Reports

Each year since 2003 diocese and eparchies across the country have participated in annual Charter Compliance Audits. Annual audit reports are available at:

<https://www.usccb.org/node/25762>

Share Signs of a Safe Program

Children and youth are involved in so many activities today. These 10 signs help indicate which programs are safe, and which are the most risky. <https://gdiocese.org/10-signs-of-a-safe-program>

John Jay Studies

In 2002 the US Bishops commissioned two studies of the US Church to help guide prevention and healing efforts. The studies were conducted by the John Jay Institute of Criminal Justice and are known by the Church as the “John Jay Studies.” You can read the studies here:

<https://www.usccb.org/offices/child-and-youth-protection/research>

Pray for Vocations

The Charter directs specific attention to the human formation of Catholic Seminarians. Pray for the healthy formation of all vocations:

https://sjvparish.com/sites/vianney/files/uploads/documents/vocation_cross_prayer.pdf

Pray for a Suffering Church

Bishop Robert Barron’s book *Letter to a Suffering Church* includes this beautiful prayer *Prayer for a Suffering Church*: <https://www.catchingfoxes.fm/195>