

# April 2018

# Child Abuse Prevention Month as Missionary Disciples

*The Joy of the Gospel*  
Pope Francis

*“The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.”*

*“Whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God. Whenever our eyes are opened to acknowledge the other, we grow in the light of faith and the knowledge of God.”*

*“Proclaiming Christ means showing that to believe in and to follow him is not only something right and true, but also something beautiful, capable of filling life with new splendour and profound joy, even in the midst of difficulties.”*

*“Go forth from [your] own comfort zone in order to reach all the peripheries in need of the light of the Gospel.”*

*“Let everyone admire how you care for one another, and how you encourage and accompany one another.”*

*“However dark things are, goodness always re-emerges ... human beings have arisen time after time from situations that seemed doomed. Such is the power of the resurrection, and all who evangelize are instruments of that power.”*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Greet Someone New	2 Be Present to Others	3 Put Comfort in Hand	4 Be Positive	5 Join in Every Day Miracles	6 Child Abuse Prevention Blessing	7 Identify Signs of Safe Relationships
8 Go Beyond Coffee and Rolls	9 Provide Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships	10 Meet the Need	11 SMILE	12 Pack up Some Care	13 Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse	14 Shed Light on the Problem of Abuse.
15 Build Blessing Bags.	16 Share your Table	17 Attend the Mass for Healing and Reparation 5:15 pm	18 Practice Active Listening	19 Lighten the Load	20 Rosary for Healing	21 Share Signs of a Safe Program
22 Shower on the Welcome	23 Model Clear Boundaries	24 Be an Example of Authentic Love	25 Greet People By Name	26 Aid the Unaccompanied	27 St. Maria Goretti Prayer	28 Stand up to Bullying and Abuse
29 Send Salutations	30 Show Respect	Learn more about what the Catholic Church is doing to Prevent abuse....				Diocese of Grand Island Child Protection Office

# Welcome

**Greet Someone New** Go outside your comfort zone and greet someone new today.

**Go Beyond Coffee & Rolls** Take coffee and rolls outside the gathering space. Deliver donuts to a local shelter or Child Advocacy Center.

**Shower on the Welcome** Host a shower for new parents in your parish or for a shelter or program for young mothers. With your gifts, include information about right relationships and resources for support.

**Send Salutations** Create cards, notes or pictures for children in out of home placements, families in shelters, or to welcome new parents in your parish.

**Build Blessing Bags** There are between 1 million and 1.7 million homeless youth—71% report trauma and abuse. Reach out with blessing bags: Fill resealable bags with simple blessings (hat, gloves, sunscreen, pre-packaged snacks, bottled water, hand cleaner, prayer cards) and info about resources at your parish, local shelters and food pantries.  
1. <http://www.divinemeracyformoms.com>  
2. <http://nationalhomeless.org/issues/youth>

# Encounter

**Be Present to Others** Challenge yourself to spend time with others, to listen more than talk, to really hear what others say, to respond with patience and empathy.

## Provide Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships

Safe, stable, nurturing relationships help children to be resilient to trauma and help re-build neural connections impacted by trauma and abuse

**Share your Table** Peer support is identified as one of the most important factors in buffering the impact of bullying. Invite someone new to your lunch table. Support a peer. Offer words of encouragement to someone you don't know well.

**Model Clear Boundaries** Some boundaries are absolute—some things are never ok. Other boundaries are determined by the nature of the relationship, the situation, and personal comfort zone. Be aware of your own and others' boundaries.

**Show Respect** Keep clear boundaries... Love unconditionally... Forgive... Be Honest... Laugh with, not at, others... Be Patient and Kind... Communicate openly... Don't threaten, humiliate, or degrade... follow the Golden Rule.

## Child Abuse Prevention Month Mass for Healing and Reparation

Attend Mass with Most Reverend Joseph G. Hanefeldt  
Tuesday, April 17, 5:15 pm  
Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
112 S Cedar, Grand Island, NE

## Put Comfort in Hand

Make prayer rocks / worry stones. Decorate smooth stones with words of comfort and inspiration. Include them in donations to child advocacy centers and shelters for anxious hands to grasp. Include a reminder that: *"someone is praying for your peace and comfort."*

**Meet the Need** Failure to meet basic needs of a child, neglect, is one of the most common forms of child maltreatment. In most cases of neglect, parents love their children and want their needs to be met, but are lacking in the resources necessary to meet their needs. Feed your parish, feed your need for fellowship, and meet the basic needs of a child by hosting a parish meal and collecting canned goods or a free will offering. Donate the offering to a local food pantry, or shelter.

## Be an Example of Authentic Love

Love is willing the good of another. The opposite of love is using others. In every interaction, every day, focus on the good of others. Strive to see in every person the image and likeness of God.

# Engage

**Be Positive** —Find something good to say about everyone you see and everything you do today.

**SMILE** —at everyone you see today!

## Practice Active Listening

- Look at the Person
- Respond (nod your head, say "ok" or, "uh huh," ask a question, repeat what they said)

## Greet People By Name

# Accompany

## Join in Every Day Miracles

In his book *Rediscover Jesus*, Matthew Kelly shares the story of a friend who had made the following habit: "When I go into any room, I look for the person who is suffering the most, and I just try to ease their pain in whatever way I can." Follow his lead in bringing the miracle of Jesus' love to others. (*Rediscover Jesus*, p. 91)"

## Pack up Some Care

Fill back packs with toiletries, clothing, PJs, Teddy Bears, and other necessities to provide comfort to children (infant—teen) who are entering emergency care. Donate the packs to your local Child Advocacy Center.

## Lighten the Load

Make a meal, run an errand, open a door, or say a prayer for a parent who is over-loaded. Be aware of signs of stress and offer a small gesture of hope and kindness to a parent today.

## Aid the Unaccompanied

In a 2014 letter, Pope Francis calls the issue of unaccompanied minors a "humanitarian emergency" that "requires, as a first urgent measure, these children be welcomed and protected." Help provide safety for unaccompanied minors at: <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-policy/unaccompanied-migrant-children-resource-kit.cfm>

# Pray

## Child Abuse Prevention Blessing

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/resources/upload/Child-Abuse-Prevention-Blessing-2015.docx>

## A Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/resources/upload/Bilingual-PC.pdf>

## Rosary for Healing

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/resources/upload/Rosary.pdf>

## St. Maria Goretti Prayer Patroness of Abused Children

<https://www.dioceseoftyler.org/uploads/tinymce/ethicsintegrity/abuse%20prayer%201.pdf>

# Protect

## Identify Signs of Safe Relationships

## Shed Light on the Problem of Abuse

## Share Signs of a Safe Program

## Stand up to Bullying and Abuse

**Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers:**  
<http://www.nebraskacacs.com/>

**Bridge of Hope Child Advocacy Center:**  
North Platte  
<http://www.bridge-of-hope-cac.org/>

**CAPstone:** Gering  
<http://www.capstonenebraska.com/index.html>

**Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center:** Grand Island  
<http://www.cn-cac.org/>

**Family Advocacy Network:** Kearney  
<http://www.familyadvocacynetwork.com/6.html>

**NE Nebraska CAC:** Norfolk  
<http://frhs.org/our-services/directory/child-advocacy-center/>